FBIS DAILY REPORT

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NEW YORK TIMES ITEM ON USSR ARMS STAND 'FABRICATION'

LD210618 Moscow TASS in English 0616 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Washington July 21 TASS -- The Soviet Embassy in Washington has strongly refuted the fabrications in the newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES concerning the Soviet Union's stand at the Soviet-American talks on arms control, in particular, on the question of elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

On July 19, the newspaper carried an article by Michael Gordon presenting the Soviet Union's stand in an absolutely distorted light. The article claimed that the USSR is allgedly "protracting the talks", references, that are absolutely irresponsible and have nothing to do with the real facts, were made to some "statement by USSR Ambassador in Washington Yuriy Dubinin to diplomats of East European countries."

The author of the article was trying, in particular, to claim that he had learnt that the Soviet ambassador told East European diplomats that the USSR saw no point in giving political support for President Reagan at this stage.

The USSR Embassy issued the following statement in Washington: "In connection with the article by Michael Gordon in THE NEW YORK TIMES quoting pronouncements allegedly made by the USSR Ambassador in Washington Yuriy Dubinin to 'West European diplomats', the USSR Embassy declares that all of that information is absolutely unfounded, and is nothing else but a pure invention. As before, the Soviet Union strives to conclude with the United States agreements on nuclear and space weapons. The Soviet Union is making most vigorous efforts in the interests of the speediest attainment of that aim. As before, the Soviet Government is ready to resolve these problems with the Administration of the United States."

BOGACHEV: OFFICIALS 'MISLEADING' U.S. ON GENEVA TALKS

LD171534 Moscow TASS in English 1446 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS -- Follows commentary by Vladimir Bogachev, TASS military news analyst:

Addressing a briefing in Washington, Charles Redman, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department, told newsmen that the U.S. Administration was preparing a paper on its stand at the Geneva talks and voiced hope that the Soviet news agency TASS, IZVESTIYA, and other Soviet mass media would make it accessible to Soviet public.

While displaying "touching concern" with how Soviet public is informed, the Washington officials have been deliberately misleading American public from day to day, claiming, in particular, that the Soviet side at the Geneva talks insists on the elimination of the West German "Pershing-1A" missiles. These West German missiles can be both nuclear tipped and carry conventional warheads.

The spokesman for the U.S. State Department is supposed to know that the Soviet proposals deal only with the elimination of the arsenals of the participants in the talks, i.e. the USSR and the USA, including the U.S. nuclear warheads to the West German delivery vehicles. Yet addressing the briefing, Redman found it apt to reiterate the inventions about the weapons of the third side, which are allegedly touched upon in the Soviet proposals.

It would be good, if for a start, the State Department admitted in public that its representatives have for a long time distorted the Soviet Union's stand on shorter-range missiles, while the U.S. mass media have for some reason been passing over in silence the Soviet side's explanations.

It must be noted, for that matter, that the Soviet readers have the possibility to familiarize themselves regularly with articles by U.S. officials on problems of arms control, which are published in the Soviet press.

KASHLEV: NATO DOCUMENT 'NOT ADEQUATE RESPONSE'

PM171425 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "All-European Meeting in Vienna"]

[Text] Vienna, 15 Jul -- At a plenary session of the all-European meeting currently being held in the Austrian capital the Warsaw Pact delegations evaluated the NATO countries' proposal on military aspects of security in Europe.

While making the point that the very fact of the document's appearance, albeit very belated, could be regarded positively, Ambassador Yu. B. Kashlev, the head of the USSR delegation, stressed that it contains no adequate response to the complex of proposals previously submitted by the socialist countries.

The NATO document has a whole series of vital shortcomings. It primarily reveals a desire to remove disarmament issues from the agenda of the next stage in the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe and debar neutral and nonaligned countries from participating on an equitable basis in the process of discussing and resolving European disarmament problems from the Atlantic to the Urals. The document clearly reveals attempts to avoid any real reduction in armed forces and arms in Europe and exclude discussion of tactical nuclear arms at future negotiations.

The heads of the Hungarian, GDR, and CSSR delegations also said that the NATO countries must show their willingness in deeds rather than words to promote the development of mutually acceptable accords that would make it possible to conclude the Vienna meeting with the adoption of a meaningful, balanced final document.

GENEVA DELEGATES ASSESS IMPORTANCE OF 'DETERRENCE'

PM201731 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Impediment to Progress"]

[Text] Geneva, 16 Jul -- The conference on disarmament is continuing its work here. The plenary session Tuesday [14 July] was addressed by SRV Vice Foreign Minister Nguyen Di Nien. He highlighted the problem of curbing the nuclear arms race and achieving nuclear disarmament as paramount, noting in this respect the danger inherent in U.S. attempts to gain military superiority and take the arms race out into space. He pointed out that in the nuclear age it is impermissible to build one's security on the doctrine of "nuclear deterrence." [paragraph continues]

A truly safe world, according to the speaker, is a world free of nuclear weapons and other types of mass destruction weapons. In this connection the Vietnamese vice foreign minister underlined the enormous significance of the program to completely eliminate nuclear weapons and other types of mass destruction weapons proposed by the Soviet Union on 15 January 1986. The Vietnamese representative also drew the attention of states participating in the conference to the need to supplement bilateral with multilateral talks and make fuller use of the disarmament conference's potential.

Speaking at the same session, D. Mellor, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, basically repeated the now traditional range of "arguments" on the need to preserve nuclear weapons, the important of the "nuclear deterrence" concept for strengthening security, and the "superiority" of the Warsaw Pact in terms of conventional weapons. The British representative tried to shift the responsibility for the lack of progress at the talks from the West to the Soviet Union.

Yu.K. Nazarkin, head of the Soviet delegation, pointed to the total futility of these attempts. The reason for the lack of progress at the talks, he noted, is the NATO states' reluctance to respond constructively to the socialist states' initiatives. For example, the Warsaw Pact states have proposed to the NATO states that consultations be held to compare the two alliances' military doctrines, in the course of which the present imbalances and asymmetries in certain types of arms and armed forces could also be discussed with a view to [putem] eliminating them on the basis of reductions on the side that is found to be ahead, on the understanding that these reductions will lead to the establishment of ever lower levels. There has as yet been no agreement from NATO, however, to hold these consultations. And as far as the "nuclear deterrence" concept is concerned, it is intended to validate the arms race and increases the risk of a nuclear catastrophe.

LATEST ROUND OF TALKS ON NUCLEAR TESTS CONCLUDES

LD201551 Moscow TASS in English 1545 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva July 20 TASS -- The latest round of Soviet-American talks of experts on questions of terminating nuclear weapon tests ended here today.

WEST LACKS 'INTEREST, POLICY' IN BUILDING RELATIONS

PM171341 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Second Edition p 1

[Yuriy Gavrilov article under the rubric "Our Dialogue": "Disarmament: A Lack of Realism"]

[Text] The letters arriving in our editorial office show that readers are most interested in the topics of restructuring, the revolutionary renewal of all aspects of our life, and the preservation of world peace. This is not surprising -- the one is most closely linked with the other. One can also understand correspondents' concern that the knots of complex problems involved in ensuring international security are not being undone as swiftly as might be wished.

"I think that many people are perturbed by a situation which is, in my view, paradoxical," Muscovite M. Yermakova writes. "Our country proposed to destroy medium-range missiles in Europe, and the United States and its allies supported this initiative, even though they did not do so at once. [paragraph continues]

"This seems to call for immediate action, since it concerns the security of all. But time is passing, and an agreement is yet to be reached. What is happening?"

The answer to this question is largely linked with the course of the Geneva talks. They center on the problem of eliminating missiles in two categories: medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles. And even though the talks are being held between the Soviet Union and the United States, their outcome depends to a considerable extent on the stance of West European countries.

Our country approached these talks in a highly responsible fashion. It displayed the utmost readiness to seek compromise solutions and to take into account the interests of both the United States and the other NATO states. Work is now under way in Geneva on formulating a joint draft agreement, with the points on which the sides have failed to agree listed within parentheses. A quest is under way for solutions to the complex questions involved in verification. It looks as if progress has been made and an opportunity has emerged to take the first step to conclude an agreement offering prospects for other important actions in the disarmament sphere.

But this requires goodwill from both sides. And that has not been displayed by the United States and its NATO allies, at least not to date. Evidence of this can be seen in the various conditions and artificial barriers they have raised in the way of agreement.

First, Washington is trying to exclude from the calculations and from destruction the U.S.-owned warheads for the 72 FRG Pershing-1A missiles. They belong to the category of operational and tactical missiles, with a flight range of up to 740km. The yield of each one of these warheads is approximately 10 times greater than the yield of the bomb that reduced Hiroshima to ashes.

What is the U.S. side's reasoning behind this approach? The fact that the topic of discussion around the negotiating table in Geneva concerns exclusively Soviet and U.S. weapon systems and not systems belonging to third countries. Bonn also insists on this point. An absurd and inconsistent argument. After all, if the warheads belong to the United States, they automatically become subject to the agreement's effect, and if they are meant to be used by the Bundeswehr, that is a blatant violation of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear weapons by both the U.S. and the West German sides.

Second, Washington intends not to eliminate but to modify the Pershing-2 medium-range missiles into operational and tactical missiles and hand them over to the FRG. The appropriate technology making it possible to complete this entire operation or reverse it within a matter of hours has already been created. [sozdana]. "The United States," U.S. State Department spokesman Oakley declared at a briefing for journalists in the U.S. capital, "agrees with NATO military authorities that Pershing modernization would maintain and strengthen NATO's nuclear deterrent and flexible response capbility." "Smart" tricks are also being devised regarding U.S. cruise missiles. To put it briefly, Washington and Bonn have taken a stance which, as FRG President R. von Weizsaecker was told during his recent visit to the USSR, "could spoil the good work -- the ship may be wrecked even before it is launched." After all, this stance is based on desire to gain unilateral advantages and dictate their own will. The Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that there must be no double standards on the question of eliminating nuclear missile weapons, in the same way there must be no exceptions for one side to the detriment of the other side's security.

The unconstructive approach adopted by Washington and its Atlantic partners to the historic opportunity to break the dangerous trend in the world resulting from the unbridled arms race -- an opportunity which has emerged thanks to the Soviet peace initiatives -- is provoking growing protest in Europe and throughout the world. This approach is condemned not only by broad circles of the peace-loving public but also by eminent sober-minded politicians.

Let me cite just one typical statement. It was made at a recent West German-U.S. conference on security questions in Bonn. H.-J Vogel, chairman of the FRG Social Democrats, called on Western leaders to abandon the "obsolete and morally absurd strategy of deterrence" and switch from arms buildup to disarmament, stressing that the peoples cannot tolerate this strategy for much longer. It must give way to the concept of detente and to security ensured jointly, not through military-technical but primarily through political methods. It is indicative that the leader of the Social Democratic Party of Germany moreover spoke in favor of taking advantage of the opportunities presented by the Soviet leadership's dynamic policy and the initiatives put forward by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. As a result of these initiatives, Vogel said, a "specific breakthrough in the nuclear disarmament sphere" has become possible.

Any unbiased person can see who is upholding peace and who is only posing as peacemaker, and this is why Washington propaganda, in the words of the British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT, resorts to a "feverish quest for an acceptable answer that would make it possible to avoid the West's being accused of attempting to sabotage the arms control process." The U.S. Government's mouthpiece, the VOA, could find nothing better than to resort to disinformation and to blame the lack of progress in arms control on the Soviet Union. And official spokesmen in Washington even declare that the Geneva talks have supposedly slowed down because the Soviet delegation is almost deliberately applying the brakes on discussion and, in many instances, even retreating from its positions.

What answer can be given to these fabrications? It would be appropriate to cite an opinion recently expressed by the U.S. journal BULLETIN OF ATOMIC SCIENTISTS: Lies and distortion of facts have become customary for the Washington administration and to justify various political actions the White House has created "a whole collection of myths it tries to sell to the public." In particular, "the Reagan administration claims that it is serious about arms control. Meanwhile, however, a whole series of administration officials have been consistently against it for a long time."

This is how matters stood at the start of Reagan's Presidency, and this is how they stand now. It is no accident that, throughout its term in the White House, the present administration has not concluded a single arms control agreement. The influence of militarist circles, which call the tune in the country's political arena, is strong on the other side of the ocean. Their destabilizing influence on the entire spectrum of international relations is well known. It was their efforts that wrecked the ratification of the SALT II Treaty, which was based on the principle of equality and identical security. In May of last year they succeeded in making the United States refuse to continue to observe in practice the Soviet-U.S. legal treaty documents on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons -- the same SALT II treaty and the 1972 Interim Agreement. It is these same circles, upholding the "Star Wars" program, that also torpedoed the opportunity to reach accords on a broad spectrum of disarmament questions that emerged in Reykjavik, succeeded in making the United States embark on a new round of military preparations, and are now striving to sabotage the AMB Treaty.

This is the reason why the agreement of which you, Comrade Yermakova, write has not yet been reached.

One could legitimately ask: Do the transatlantic militarists and their NATO fellow-thinkers in Europe have any constructive conception of the "peace challenge" from the USSR? Judging by everything, the answer is no.

The Warsaw Pact countries recently proposed to NATO that we come to the negotiating table and discuss questions concerning the reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces from the Atlantic to the Urals. In response, NATO launched a campaign for the further deployment of conventional arms. There has been no specific answer to the proposal to discuss the blocs' military doctrines. All this indicates just one thing, namely: the absence of a realistic policy in the West and a lack of sincere interest in building relations with the USSR while rejecting the course of confrontation.

People in the West who have spent too long in the cold war trenches still draw consolation from illusions that it is possible to talk to our country from positions of strength and gain concessions from it. They still nurture vain hopes of "dismantling the Soviet system." The "Red threat" scarecrow is again in circulation, even though today they find it increasingly difficult to scare people and justify the arms race. Evidently to keep up with the Pentagon, H. Teltschick, adviser to the FRG chancellor on foreign policy questions, gave voice to anti-Soviet fabrications in Bonn a few days ago, going all out to promote the thesis that Moscow pursues a "policy of threat" toward Bonn. The most reactionary circles in the West, clearly scared that the peace initiatives and the process of changes would enhance the USSR's prestige, are frightening ordinary people with tales that restructuring supposedly serves to strengthen Soviet military might and renders Europe and the entire Western world "defenseless" before it.

But the Soviet Government's flexible and dynamic policy in the international arena engenders enormous sympathy among the public in the most diverse countries. Despite opposition from imperialist circles, the trends toward disarmament and peace on the planet are strengthening. The peoples are entitled to expect that realism will gain the upper hand in the corridors of power in the West and that the chance to take steps along the path of disarmament will not be missed.

EDITORIAL EXAMINES PROBLEMS IN FULFILLING CEMA PROGRAM

PM081157 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[A. Borisov article under the rubric "From Journal Pages": "EKONOMICHESKOYE SOTRUDNICHESTVO STRAN-CHLENOV SEV"]

[Text] The implementation of the Comprehensive Program for CEMA Countries' Scientific and Technical Progress Through the Year 2000, which was collectively elaborated and adopted 18 months ago, is the community countries' key task. Its successful resolution will make it possible to strengthen the weight of socialism in the world economy and to satisfy, independently of the West, the fraternal states' requirements for the most advanced equipment and technology.

How, then, is the program being implemented? The editorial in the latest (sixth) issue of the journal EKONOMICHESKOYE SOTRUDNICHESTVO STRAN-CHLENOV SEV [CEMA COUNTRIES' ECONOMIC COOPERATION] is devoted to this question. While noting the great work and the definite progress in realizing the measures of the Comprehensive Program for CEMA Countries' Scientific and Technical Progress Through the Year 2000, at the same time the article draws attention to serious flaws and laggardness in this very important work. Thus, questions of "who is to do what?" are still being coordinated with regard to a number of problems. Many organizations involved in cooperation do not have proper experience of international cooperation or a specially trained apparatus. A number of ministries and departments of CEMA countries have, to put it mildly, displayed helplessness in developing the cooperation envisaged by the program. As a result, institutes and enterprises under their jurisdiction have found themselves lacking the necessary support and assistance in developing production collaboration.

The journal points out that the implementation of the Comprehensive Program for CEMA Countries' Scientific and Technical Progress Through the Year 2000 has also come up against the passiveness of certain scientific and production organizations and their reluctance to depart from the customary track and reorient subject matter toward resolving the new tasks outlined in the comprehensive program.

The CEMA countries are to begin series production of articles relating to 78 problems of the Comprehensive Program for CEMA Countries' Scientific and Technical Progress Through the Year 2000 on the basis of international specialization and collaboration already in the current 5-year plan. However, accords on production specialization embrace just one-third of these problems. It is necessary as quickly as possible, the article states, to determine the specific contribution of each CEMA country to the fulfillment of the program targets. This can only be done on the basis of economic treaties and contracts. In all, more than 1,000 of them have to be concluded (more than 240 have already been signed, and approximately 200 more are at the stage of being agreed). But laggardness is to be observed here too, and the sides are holding up the fulfillment of pledges.

In the Soviet Union, the journal points out, parent organizations have been granted the right to conclude contracts on the basis of detailed programs, without waiting for agreements. But the approach in some fraternal countries is different: First the agreement, then the contract. Moreover, not all organizations involved in cooperation have the right to sign such contracts, and those which have been given this right frequently operate without the necessary efficiency. The establishment of direct production and scientific ties among the fraternal states' institutes, associations, and enterprises is assuming special significance.

The improvement of the international mechanism for implementing the Comprehensive Program for CEMA Countries' Scientific and Technical Progress Through the Year 2000, as well as the activity of CEMA organs, is an important task. In short, the journal concludes, decisive steps are needed to promote the efficient acceleration of the scientific, technical, and production collaboration envisaged by the comprehensive program.

SOVIET-PPR-GDR FORCES TO CONDUCT EXERCISES 27-31 JULY

LD201133 Moscow TASS in English 1050 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Warsaw July 20 TASS -- According to the plan of combat training of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty member states, tactical exercises "Druzhba-87" (Friendship-87) will be held in the territory of Poland's north western areas on July 27-31 with the participation of the assigned staffs and units of the National People's Army of the GDR, the Polish Army and the Soviet Army with a total strength of nearly 13,000 men and officers. The aim of the exercises is a further perfection of cooperation between the headquarters and troops.

UN CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE IN IRAN-IRAQ WAR

LD202333 Moscow TASS in English 2318 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] New York July 21 TASS — The U.N. Security Council demanded that Iran and Iraq, as an initial step toward settlement through talks, should immediatey cease fire, stop all hostilities on land, at sea and in the air and immediately pool [as received] back all the troops to internationally-recognized borders. In a resolution unanimously adopted on Monday it called on all other states to display maximum restraint and refrain from any actions which can lead to further escalation and expansion of the conflict. This decision was taken to achieve an all-embracing, just, honourable and lasting settlement between Iran and Iraq, the conflict between which is going on, unabated, with great material and human losses.

The Soviet Union invariably stands out for the earliest end to the Iran-Iraq armed conflict and for a settlement of outstanding issues between Iran and Iraq not on a battlefield but at the table of political negotiations, said A. Belonogov, the Soviet permanent representative to the U.N., during the discussion. The danger lies in the premise that a further escalation and expansion of the conflict can take place. "We are resolutely against this regional conflict developing into an international crisis situation," he said. Under the present-day conditions, of special significance is the part of the resolution containing an appeal of the Security Council to other states. It is clear to anyone who should, above all, display maximum restraint. It is common knowledge that concentration of outside armed forces in the Persian Gulf area is going on.

Such actions are motivated, above all, by a desire of some people to use the present disturbing situation in the Gulf zone to achieve realization of long-coveted plans of obtaining new military strongholds for aviation and navy. On July 3 the Soviet Government put forth specific proposals which are aimed at improving the situation in the Persian Gulf and which provide, inter alia, for all warships of states situated outside this area to be withdrawn from the gulf at the earliest date. "We hoped that the states, whom it may concern, would show readiness to combine national interests with general human tasks, to take into account interests of each country and each people and to live not only by the present day but also to look into the future," said the Soviet representative.

The USSR regards the resolution worked out as a result of collective efforts of all Security Council members as a sound and just basis for switching over the Iran-Iraq conflict to a channel of peaceful solutions and ending the many-year-long senseless war, he noted. It has general parameters for such a settlement. Its fulfillment in all aspects should become a concrete demonstration of the international community's ability to make a practical move towards renunciation of confrontation and the use of force and towards a transition in interstate relations to a new mode of political thinking conforming to the realities of the end of the 20th century.

TOLSTYKH RECEIVES UN ECONOMIC SECRETARY FOR EUROPE

LD202343 Moscow TASS in English 1917 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS — Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology of the USSR Boris Tolstykh today received Executive Secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe Herald Hinteregger. Questions of the USSR's participation in activities of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe were discussed.

RADIO COMMENTATOR HOSTS 'INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE'

LD191830 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 19 Jul 87

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Boris Andrianov, All-Union Radio foreign political commentator; Dmitriy Antonovich Volskiy, member of the ZA RUBEZHOM editorial board; and Vadim Borisovich Kassis, editor-in-chief of GOLOS RODINY and OTCHIZNA]

[Text] [Andrianov] Hello, comrades. Taking part in our roundtable today are: Dmitriy Antonivich Volskiy, member of the ZA RUBEZHOM editorial board and Vadim Borisovich Kassis, editor-in-chief of GOLOS RODINY and OTCHIZNA.

I think we'll begin our discussion with the situation in the Persian Gulf. There are pretty strong reasons for doing so since the situation there has worsened considerably over the past week. U.S. actions show this. They are ignoring the proposal that effective measures should be taken, jointly with all the interested sides, to bring the senseless Iran-Iraq war to an end and make genuine provision for the safety of shipping. Instead, Washington continues to exacerbate the dramatic situation in the Gulf with the intention of exploiting that situation for its own far from admirable purpose.

[Volskiy] Well, Boris Vasiliyevich, it looks as if matters will come to a head next week. On Wednesday, U.S. warships will start escorting Kuwaiti vessels under the U.S. flag. But, even in this alarming situation, diplomatic efforts to stop the Iran-Iraq war, which has dragged on now into its 7th year and is serving as a pretext for U.S. interference, have also been intensified. These diplomatic efforts to stop the Iran-Iraq war are being undertaken from various directions; however, everyone agrees that an important part will be played by the United Nations, where many different states can get together on this question.

[Andrianov] Certainly, a lot is being said just now about the Security Council resolution calling for an end to the Iran-Iraq war. But then, at the same time, we have Washington itself threatening to interfere in that war by force of arms. How can these two things be reconciled?

[Volskiy] Well, it's often said that Washington's right hand does not know what its left is doing. Yet, I think to speak in this way would be an oversimplification even though there are conflicts in the U.S. approach to the Persian Gulf. But here all the various U.S. departments have but one aim: to strengthen Washington's position in the area both by military and political means. The question, however, is what U.S. interests really are. Is peace necessary in this region? On generally accepted logic, it would seem so, since the capitalist countries draw a considerable amount of their oil from the Gulf, and the United States, as we know, claims to be the leader of world capitalism. Where will they be if the flames of war spread so fast that the oil ceases to flow? According to the experts, industrial enterprises could come to a standstill. This would most likely happen in Western Europe and Japan, which are the main consumers of Gulf oil, not in the U.S.

[Andrianov] That's absolutely true. The United States obtains far less oil from the Gulf than the countries of Western Europe and Japan. They're less dependent on it and that's why Washington allows itself to indulge in military adventures in the Gulf.

[Volskiy] Certainly the Americans are less dependent on oil from there, but still they want to control it and its sources. That is one reason for the Pentagon's dangerous military activity in the Persian Gulf. But there's another reason, and this has to do with the global strategy aimed against the Soviet Union. The U.S. strategists regard the Gulf and the countries adjacent to it as the third most important potential theater of military operations in the event of another world war, after Western Europe and Japan. It is at this third theater that the U.S. Central Command and the Rapid Deployment Forces subordinate to it, as well as the Diego Garcia Base in the Indian Ocean, are aimed. This whole zone of operation of the Central Command extends orth to include Pakistan and Afghanistan. Here we discern an internal connection between events that are outwardly unconnected: the militarist operations in the Gulf and the actions of the United States in relation to Afghanistan. Is it by chance that the exacerbation in the Gulf has coincided with -- among other things -- deliveries to the dushmans of the famous U.S. Stinger hand-held missiles used against helicopters and planes? This is the response of the Pentagon, and of Western militarist circles in general, to the policy of national reconciliation that has been proclaimed, and is being actively put into practice, by the Afghan leadership.

[Andrianov] The first half-year of implementation of that policy has just been marked -- marked with new concrete measures toward national reconciliation on the part of the leadership of Afghanistan. This includes a new constitution. It has been announced that new political parties are to be formed. The way has been opened for including representatives of the opposition in the government, and they are to be given important, even key posts, not for show, as asserted by Western propaganda.

[Volskiy] Indeed, the ruling party, the PDPA, has declared its willingness to share power. But of course it's not just a matter of the policy of the leadership of the DRA and of the party. Without any doubt, the policy of national reconciliation is now the only possible policy in Afghanistan for all sections of its population, for all the political forces. And to wreck it, to drive it into an impasse, is just what not only the most implacable of the dushmans, but also -- and most importantly -- the anti-Soviet circles in the United States, want. Well, in the long run, they won't succeed in wrecking that policy of reconciliation, the more so since it rests upon the total support of the Soviet Union. And for us, supporting national reconciliation in Afghanistan is not a matter of expediency arising merely from the desire to create the right conditions for withdrawing the Soviet military contingent. No, support for national reconciliation in Afghanistan is a principled position. It follows from the very nature of the new political thinking. More than that, it is dictated, ultimately, by the profound changes now taking place in our country itself under restructuring and the democratization of our life. For, as Comrade Gorbachev said in his conversation with writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez, our foreign policy is a continuation of our domestic policy. And those forces in the West that say they wish success to restructuring in the USSR ought at least not to hinder the settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan. This is now a kind of touchstone. Then, serving as a further indicator of intentions is the approach to the Persian Gulf, where the Soviet Union advocates -- also as a matter of principle -- the withdrawal from its waters of the warships of the nonlittoral countries, and political action to normalize the situation. This would be in keeping with the restructuring of international relations also, of which the whole world stands in need.

[Andrianov] But as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev remarked to Garcia Marquez, restructuring international relations sticks in imperialism's throat like a bone.

[Volskiy] And possibly in the Gulf the bone protrudes more than ever because of the military interference by the United States. However, there is also another element. By restoring to a show -- and possible use -- of military force in the Gulf and directly threatening Iran's missile installations by hitting them, the Washington administration, including President Reagan personally, clearly wants to divert attention from the scandal over the supply of U.S. arms to Iran, the proceeds of which, as you know, went to replenishing the armories of the Nicaraguan contras. The more so since in recent weeks that affair has taken a new turn that is especially dangerous to the Washington administration.

[Kassis] Yes, practically since the fall of last year, passions have been raging in the United States over the latest scandal of the present U.S. Administration. First of all it was called Irangate, and then, as a variant, Iran-contras. Since May, a special commission of both houses of Congress has been engaged in investigating the affair and a few days ago a new round of the hearings started, with testimony, above all, from an official of middle rank: Marine Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North. It's North who has been proclaimed almost as the key figure of Irangate; President Reagan has even called him a national hero.

[Volskiy] Well, Vadim Borisovich, although North is only a lieutenant colonel he's in a position to render generous payment to the President himself, by justifying the actions of the White House with regard to Nicaragua and Iran.

[Kassis] Quite right. Moreover, now that CIA director Casey has shuffled off his mortal coil, it's the easiest thing in the world for the lieutenant colonel to unload the blame for everything onto the deceased. In his evidence he has emphasized that the plan of the operation was proposed by none other than Casey, who was also, it seems, in constant consultation with North. Though the ears of the Central Intelligence Agency itself and of other U.S. Government departments can be seen sticking out behind all the acts of this clandestine operation, the involvement of the White House in the scandal is obvious.

As THE WASHINGTON POST notes, the U.S. President is now despondent over public opinion poll results showing most Americans don't believe him. So it's hardly likely that the denizens of the White House are going to succeed in extinguishing the conflageration with their river of lies. The quiet Americans at the CIA won't be able to put out the fire, either. By the way, former CIA director Casey, died in May, when the scandalous Irangate revelations were at their height. He just missed living to see the 40th anniversary of that department's existence. The bill setting up the cloak-and-dagger agency was signed by President Truman in July 1947. At that time, Allen Dulles simply twisted Congress round his little finger and assured them he could make do with a staff of a few dozen. Today, under its new director, Webster, the CIA has an establishment of more than 18,000 and an annual budget of $3.2 billion.

In the intervening decades the men of the CIA have committed no small number of crimes. They have acted as the transmitters and initiators of bloody operations in various countries. Yet the subversive activity of the CIA, both within and beyond the United States, is assiduously presented by the bourgeois media as an exemplar of service to one's country.

[Andrianov] It is thought that at least 300 of the recruits who swell the ranks of the CIA each year are future officers of clandestine operation similar to Irangate, about which we've just been talking. It's the CIA that has now become the key instrument of the doctrine of neoglobalism, which relies mainly on subversive secret operations.

[Kassis] We ought also to note, Boris Vasilyevich, that the United States' claim to world leadership is articulated by practically every U.S. President and his administration. When Truman signed the act that created the CIA in 1947, he delivered himself of the profound statement that the world must adapt to the U.S. system.

[Andrianov] To make the world more compliant and obedient, Washington started mounting, with the help of the CIA, subversive actions against those nations that want to decide their own destiny.

[Kassis] The Reagan administration really has given the CIA carte blanche. Three years ago the President signed secret directive No 131. This provides for a stepping up of subversion against the Third World countries that have either achieved or are seeking independence. A vivid illustration of the way that directive is being fulfilled is provided by the subversive actions of the CIA against the DRA.

[Andrianov] When Vadim Borisvich was telling us about the activities of the CIA, a thought crossed my mind. It occurred to me that this spy department has now acquired one more hot spot in South Korea, where the Seoul regime is having a hard time, to put it mildly. The reason is well known. That, presumably, is why the machinery of CIA Headquarters at Langley has gone into top gear, churning out a program for stabilizing the situation in the south of the Korean peninsula and enabling this friendly regime to survive. We can be sure that the man carrying out these injunctions is the U.S. ambassador in Seoul, Lilley. He hasn't been a full-time employee of the CIA for nothing. So for experience, he's hard to beat. In addition, he has at his disposal thousands of secret agents who have infiltrated the ranks of the opposition and the radical student organizations. This whole network of agents has been woven by the South Korean National Security Agency, virtually a branch of the CIA.

[Kassis] Yes, the transatlantic knights of the cloak and dagger seem to be having a field day in South Korea. You certainly couldn't say that the situation there is at all well defined. The situation in the country appears, rather, to be in an unbalanced state. It looks very much as if the ruling circles in Seoul have taken time out to get their breath back after the recent tempestuous events.

[Andrianov] A few days ago, one of the leaders of opposition, Kim Yong-sam, gave what amounted to a signal that it's time to end the breathing space. He called on the rulers of the regime to start talks as early as next week on drawing up a new constitution, which must provide for direct presidential elections. At the same time, Kim Yong-sam stressed that the agenda of the talks must include the question of freeing all political prisoners. He was thereby reaffirming the crucial demands put forward by the population of South Korea in the course of its struggle against the dictatorship and for democratic reform. Under powerful pressure from the protest movement, the South Korean authorities have been forced to accept these demands, but Seoul is clearly in no hurry to carry them out. Why?

[Volskiy] Well, Boris Vasilyevich, I think they simply want to play for time because they need it badly, now. They need time above all to consolidate the position of the ruling Democratic Justice Party and strengthen its position for the coming political fight with the opposition. That's an understandable desire, I think.

[Andrianov] I should say so! Because this is the party that was founded by Chon Tu-hwan himself to shore up his dictatorial regime. Now it's beginning to pretend it had nothing to do with him. In short, that same political organization is trying to disown the crimes of the antipeople regime it approved and supported.

This blatantly obvious desire to whitewash itself stems from a calculated attempt to dupe the South Koreans and score extra points in the projected presidential elections. To make it appear that the ruling party has been reformed, Chon Tu-hwan has quit as its president. The new leader, No Tae-u -- the same, incidentally, whom Chon Tu-hwan regards as his successor as head of state -- has, as a demonstrative maneuver, carried out a purge of the party leadership. In the course of it, No Tae-u has removed a few odious figures. Among them are generals who have, in their time, directly supported Chon Tu-hwan in his seizure of power by force and some hard-nosed politicians closely linked to the dictator.

[Kassis] But, Boris Vasilyevich, No Tae-u himself is a fine match for such characters. He's also a general, though retired, and an old colleague of Chon Tu-hwan, having undergone special military training with him in the United States. Like him, he commanded the South Korean cutthroats in Vietnam. He is reputedly a very close personal friend of the Seoul dictator, whom he supported with his 9th Division during the military putsch that put Chon Tu-hwan in power. For that service, No Tae-u was appointed commander of the public security force, that is, the secret police of the dictatorial regime.

[Andrianov] Now this personage is trying ultrahard to dissociate himself from Chon Tu-hwan. No Tae-u is declaring publicly that he is not a confederate of Chon Tu-hwan, since he holds political views far removed from those of the dictator. In short, he is representing himself as a moderate politician and an advocate -- so he claims -- of democratic reform in South Korea. One must assume that it's not at all fortuitous that the plan of reform has been put forward in the name of No Tae-u. The British DAILY TELEGRAPH has argued pretty soundly in this connection that quite possibly what's going on is a well-rehearsed maneuver to create an impression of Chon Tu-hwan's successor as a reformer and a worthy candidate for the post of president in place of the present head of the regime.

[Andrianov] This is the sort of propaganda gloss that is being applied to the person who as recently as 5 weeks ago served as a target for a most sharp criticism, but now the idea has emerged of turning him into almost a national hero.

[Volskiy] Yet something else is taking place in Seoul at the same time. There are attempts to retouch the government's image there. At the beginning of this week, Chon Tu-hwan carried out a cabinet reshuffle. He dismissed the prime minister and eight ministers at once. All of them belonged to the ruling party. The Japanese newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN writes that the desire to create a neutral cabinet is behind this reorganization.

However, even Western observers note that, though not a single one of the cabinet members is officially linked with the ruling party, this, to all appearances, does not attest their neutral positions, whereas South Korean opposition leaders Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung said straightforwardly that the current government consists of dictator Chon Tu-hwan's proteges and therefore, cannot ensure just presidential elections. On this basis, opposition leaders demanded the immediate resignation of the new cabinet and proposed to form a truly neutral transitional government from representatives of all political parties and nonparty figures. It is difficult to tell so far whether this demand by the opposition will be considered.

[Andrianov] This difficulty is quite understandable as the political maneuvers of the powers-that-be in Seoul are being guided -- and quite bluntly at that -- by the United States. The U.S. press, too, does not conceal this fact. Moreover, it even justifies such interference. For example, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR said openly about the events in South Korea that the United States has the right to interfere with the internal affairs of its proteges and clients. And, being the boss of Seoul's regime, Washington is giving orders at the parade there, metaphorically speaking. Would the dictatorial clique otherwise have agreed to concessions and compromises just by itself? Washington simply felt that it was impossible to keep South Korea under control through the obedient military dictatorship. The trustees from across the ocean feared that the wave of antidictatorial unrest would not only sweep away that notorious regime but also call in question the U.S. military positions in the region. The escalation of tension threatens U.S. strategic interests and Washington did all it could to prevent a catastrophe.

[Kassis] It is absolutely obvious that the geopoliticians from across the ocean are patently intending to secure by any means such a rule in South Korea that would keep the U.S. military presence at full strength there. This is the main task set by Washington under conditions of the current situation in the south of the Korean peninsula. Many calculations of the U.S. military are connected with this territory, in particular, plans for knocking together the militarist triangle of Washington-Tokyo-Seoul. It is now acquiring ever more visible outlines. This is particularly conspicuous against the background of strengthening Japan's role in U.S. nuclear strategy.

[Andrianov] As you know, the U.S. military has sited over 120 of its bases and installations on the Japanese archipelago. Practically all of them have been geared up to the preparations for global or regional conflicts with the use of weapons of mass destruction. This, for example, is the opinion of Arkin, director of nuclear weapons research of the U.S. Institute for Policy Studies, and he is a knowledgeable specialist and knows what he says.

[Volskiy] The United States is intensely building up nuclear weapons delivery facilities in Japan. Take, for example, the air base Misawa in the north of Honshu Island. Just this week it became known that the deployment of 53 U.S. F-16 fighter-bombers had been completed there. They are nuclear arms carriers capable of reaching the territories of the USSR and other Asian countries. The last convoy of such aircraft was transferred to Misawa as early as the beginning of July but the Japanese public learned about it only 10 days later as the U.S. military authorities did not give any preliminary information about it. Meanwhile, according to data amassed by Japanese peace supporters, a nuclear infrastructure, as they call it, has already been set up at the base at Misawa that includes stores for nuclear ammunition. And these Japanese peace supporters think the stores are far from being empty.

[Andrianov] I think that if one asked official Tokyo bluntly, as the saying goes, whether there are U.S. weapons of mass destruction on Japanese territory, then an evasive answer would be given. The Japanese authorities are trying to avoid that ticklish subject. They prefer to allege that Washington, as they say, has never made a request to Tokyo to bring nuclear weapons onto Japanese territory. So, if the Americans did not make the request, it means they did not bring them. As far as the United States itself is concerned, it invariably alludes to its principle of neither corroborating nor denying the existence of nuclear weapons at bases, on aircraft, and on ships.

[Kassis] Of course, all this is just military-political sophistry. In actual fact, a secret accord exists between Washington and Tokyo on bringing U.S. nuclear weapons into Japan. This deal is recorded in a special working memorandum. The Japanese press was informed about it by the former assistant of the U.S. secretary of defense, (Bader). Naturally, this caused a rumpus in official circles in Tokyo.

[Andrianov] In general, many facts testify that the United States is today using Japanese territory ever more extensively in the interests of its nuclear strategy. Even now the Pentagon has practically been granted the right to make unlimited flights over the Japanese archipelago without having preliminary consultations with Tokyo. Now the appearance of the U.S. B-52 aircraft has probably become an everyday sight at Kadena Airbase on Okinawa.

These strategic bombers fly here from the island of Guam. In the beginning, they landed at Kadena Airbase under the pretext that weather conditions were unfavorable. But now even a fig leaf of justification like that is cast aside. Incidentally, I believe that Vadim Borisovich had occasion to visit the area near Kadena Airbase when he was working in Japan.

[Kassis] Yes, that is quite right, and it must be said that it is now admitted that the biggest underground ammunition depot in the world is at Kadena. It houses special compartments for nuclear, bacteriological, and chemical weapons. All these weapons are under the jurisdiction of a special subunit code-named 400.

[Andrianov] Can you tell us more precisely, Vadim Borisovich, when nuclear weapons first appeared at Kadena?

[Kassis] There are grounds for assuming -- and this is reported in the Japanese press -- that occurred in 1985. At that time, they brought nuclear bombs with B-61 warheads to the base. They can be mounted on any kind of aircraft on Okinawa. The power of a bomb like that is 500 kilotonnes. This is more than 40 times more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima. Even more noteworthy is the fact that there are universal repair shops here for the servicing and repair of aircraft. Kadena has yet another function: That is the gathering of intelligence information. Based on this information, military missions are worked out and the operations of U.S. strategic aircraft are controlled in emergency conditions. But in the event of a conflict it is via Kadena that the order for a nuclear attack will be issued.

[Andrianov] The news media have reported that in March of this year a special E-4B aircraft, aptly named "Last Day of the World" ["Posledniy den Zemnogo Shara"] landed at Kadena. What is this aircraft like?

[Kassis] Yes, this aircraft is equipped with complex electronic equipment for commanding all the operations of the U.S. Air Force and troops in a full-scale nuclear conflict. That is the kind of explosive setup involved here at the Kadena base on the Japanese islands.

[Andrianov] Sailing a dangerous course in the wake of the militarist policy of the United States, Tokyo officials attempt to justify their actions with reference to the Soviet threat, which our country's level of activity in the Asian-Pacific region -- according to them -- entails. Need one provide proof of how groundless such references are? There is no gain saying that our country pursues an active policy in the Pacific Ocean. This is shown by the speech Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev delivered in Vladivostok around a year ago. But this Soviet policy is in line with the common interests of the countries situated in this region and is not deterimental to any of them. This is a graphic manifestation of the new political thinking that determines the Soviet Union's general line in all its domestic and international affairs. That ends our roundtable meeting. All the participants thank you for your attention, esteemed listeners. Good-bye! All the best to you!

LATE REPORT: GORBACHEV MESSAGE TO U.S. ON IRAN-IRAQ

LD211220 Moscow TASS in English 1212 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has addressed a reply to U.S. President Ronald Reagan to his message in connection with the Iran-Iraq conflict, a briefing was told here today by Boris Pyadyshev, a spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The reply from Mikhail Gorbachev says that the growing tensions in the Persian Gulf area are a source of serious concern for the USSR. One of the causes of the situation is the continuing senseless bloodshed between Iran and Iraq. There are prerequisites, and not bad ones, for that matter, for joint actions by the USSR and the USA at the Security Council for putting an end speedily to the conflict of many years on fair terms. Mikhail Gorbachev expressed consent with the opinion of Ronald Reagan that in that area the USSR and the USA have good prospects for constructive cooperation. The U.N. secretary general holds a special place in the implementation of the decisions being prepared by the international community.

Mikhail Gorbachev's reply says that another cause of the mounting tensions in the Persian Gulf is the build-up of U.S. military presence in that area.

Mikhail Gorbachev notes that some statements by representatives of the U.S. Administration seem to be evidence of the U.S. side's interest in connection with the Soviet proposals on the Persian Gulf. If this impression is well-founded, we would be ready to discuss that issue with the United States more specifically in any format convenient for the President.

Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that he shares the idea in which Ronald Reagan ends his letter: When our countries decide upon acting jointly, the results will soon be there.

U.S. TO MOVE EIGHT SHIPS INTO PERSIAN GULF

LD210731 Moscow TASS in English 0722 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Washington July 21 TASS -- The United States is planning to move a large naval squadron into the Persian Gulf for escorting Kuwaiti tankers flying the American flag under the pretext of protecting navigation in the Gulf.

The start of escort operations is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22.

A Pentagon official said on Monday that eight U.S. naval ships would take part in the operation: three cruisers of the "Leahy" and "Belknap" type, a missile destroyer and four "Oliver Hazard Perry" class missile frigates.

The naval squardon will include the cruisers "Fox", "Worden", "Reeves", the "Kidd" destroyer, and the "Flatley", "Jarrett", "Cronnelin" and "Klakring" frigates.

The frigates are armed with 3- and 5-inch guns, antiship and antiaircraft missiles. The cruiser and the destroyer carry anti-submarine helicopters.

The Pentagon official said that the squadron would be led by the U.S. "La Salle" amphibious warship.

Escort Set to Begin

LD211002 Moscow TASS in English 0953 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Washington July 21 TASS -- The United States which has concentrated in the Persian Gulf a big naval grouping under the pretext of ensuring "the freedom of navigation," is going within the next few hours to begin an operation to escort Kuwaiti oil tankers. This was reported by ASSOCIATED PRESS which quoted Pentagon officials who declined to be identified. The tankers "Bridgeton" and "Gus Prince" were lying at anchor on Monday not far from the entry to the Persian Gulf. As was said by one representative of the Pentagon, everything is ready for the operation. What the Pentagon calls a tanker escort operation is in fact a large-scale military operation which may have unpredictable consequences. The American forces in the Persian Gulf area have been ordered to open fire at the slightest hint of a possibility of "hostilities".

TASS Cites KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA

LD210858 Moscow TASS in English 0800 GMT 21 Jul 87

["Clouds Over Persian Gulf" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS -- In the course of almost 40 recent years, Washington has traditionally regarded the Persian Gulf to be its property. That oil bearing region has been and remains to the White House a source of super-profits, which is described in the language of the overseas politicos as the "vital interests of the USA," the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA says in its commentary today.

In its striving to "protect" these interests Washington has already repeatedly made efforts worthy of a better application, is trying to aggravate the situation in the region. Having exhausted all the possibilities of experts in "clandestine operations," the White House has decided to stake its all by announcing its decision to escort eleven Kuwaiti tankers across the Persian Gulf by the U.S. Navy, which, in the opinion of experts, actually stands for the direct involvement of the USA in the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The current situation in the Persian Gulf is amazingly similar to the events in the Gulf of Tonkin 25 years ago, when Washington displayed the same stubbornness in looking for a pretext to invade Vietnam.

Also noteworthy is the fact that in starting its fresh dangerous adventure, official Washington has had recourse to openly provocative anti-Soviet rhetoric. As Howard Baker, chief of the White House staff, recently said, the freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf must be defended from...the Soviet Union and that the United States would not give up control in the region to the Soviets. This is an absurd statement, the newspaper stresses.

The Lebanese newspaper AL-NIDA' has described Washington's actions as an open provocation with unpredictable consequences. It is echoed by the British FINANCIAL TIMES which assesses the events in the Persian Gulf as a new and potential more dangerous stage in the escalation of the conflict. As time passes on, one can ever more clearly hear the calls addressed to the USA that it accept the Soviet Union's proposal on the withdrawal of all foreign naval vessels from that area. This step is evaluated as a real path to stabilising the situation. Yet, clouds of a conflict continue gathering over the Persian Gulf, the newspaper says.

DPA Cites NOVOSTI Commentary

LD211058 Hamburg DPA in German 1035 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Berlin (DPA) -- The Soviet Union once again has sharply condemned the U.S. intention to provide a military escort for Kuwaiti tankers, sailing under the U.S. flag. A commentary by the semi-official Soviet news agency NOVOSTI says on Tuesday that under the guise of escorting such tankers, the Pentagon has turned the Persian Gulf region into a "deployment zone of neoglobalistic strategy" directed "against the USSR and the freedom-loving peoples of this planet."

The United States will be demanding bases from the Arab states in the Persian Gulf area and will try to involve them in Washington's militaristic plans.

"The bill for any possible consequences will have to be presented to the United States. This adventurousness evokes justifiable disquiet." The USSR is eagerly interested in the earliest possible solution to this "hot spot," located near its southern border.

However, the tension in that region should be settled purely by political means. This was true of all regional conflicts, whether in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, southern Africa, or Central America.

U.S. CONDUCTS TRIDENT-2 MISSILE TEST LAUNCH

LD210611 Moscow TASS in English 0604 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] New York July 21 TASS--The United States conducted on Monday the test firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile Trident-2 as part of its nuclear build-up programme.

According to a spokesman for the U.S. Navy, the missile armed with a dummy warhead was launched from a launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida, in the direction of the Atlantic Ocean. According to AP news agency, the Pentagon intends to deploy Trident-2 missiles on American submarines in 1989. Before, it intends to carry out 15 more test firings from ground launch pads and 10 test firings from submarines.

TASS ANALYST DISPUTES REDMAN STATEMENTS ON DRA

LD161627 Moscow TASS in English 1539 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS -- By TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov:

It has become a rule that no matter where an act of terror occurs certain circles in the USA, with zeal worthy of better application, hasten to accuse of "involvement in terrorism" those countries, whose political course does not suit Washington. This happened fairly often in the past and happens today when the echo of explosions in Pakistan which killed more than 100 people resounds in the world. Speaking at a briefing in Washington, U.S. State Department Spokesman Charles Redman admitted that he had no concrete information as to who initiated these terrorist acts. But, having admitted this fact, he immediately indulged in conjecture, of quite certain nature: "This would appear to be the work of agents operating under the control of the Kabul regime's secret police..."

The fabrications in question pursue the aim of not only casting aspersions on the peaceloving foreign policy of Kabul, which supports national reconciliation and goodneighbourliness, but are clearly designed to distract the public from the increasingly important issue of the true causes and sources of terrorism. However, these causes are no secret at all: International terrorism appeared and grows, primarily because of the breeding ground provided by imperialist forces which are banking on force, and Washington's policy of neoglobalism whose architects view nearly the whole planet as the sphere of "U.S. vital interests". Over the years the Reagan administration has been in office, the number of major "special operations" alone, undertaken by American special services in various regions of the world reached 50.

The undeclared war unleashed by Washington against Nicaragua, provocations against sovereign Arab countries, the fostering of national strife in India, and support for terrorist UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] bands operating on the territory of People's Angola -- such is an incomplete list of crucial tasks, whose realisation constitutes the service record of the American military and U.S. "intelligence community". According to former CIA agent John Stockwell, three million people have already fallen victim to "secret wars" conducted in developing countries by the CIA espionage agency.

Even the strained internal situation in Pakistan is largely connected with the U.S. "neoglobalist" policy, with the fact that Washington's efforts helped turn this country into an American military-strategic springboard in Asia. It is well known that Pakistan is oversaturated with weapons, stamped "Made in the USA". Hundreds of thousands of counterrevolutionaries, fed on American dollars, are based and act practically without any control there. This country is virtually aswarm with CIA agents, its hirelings and accomplices, closely linked, in particular, with a ramified and powerful drug mafia. It is hardly surprising that crime rate is rising sharply in this atmosphere in the country and all manner of terrorist groups are given wide scope to act.

The "policy of neoglobalism" pursued by Washington and accompanied by attempts to accuse without proof other countries and peoples of terrorism give rise to condemnation even in the American bourgeois press. [paragraph continues]

The U.S. Administration, THE WASHINGTON POST writes, for example, needs a good large mirror, looking into which it could see a hypocrite. An apt description. It remains only to regret that such mirror was missing at the briefing where Mr Redman was declaiming...

TASS ASSAILS U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD UN CONFERENCE

LD171956 Moscow TASS in English 1731 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS -- TASS news analyst Ivan Ablamov writes:

Challenging the world community, the United States has announced it will not participate in the international conference on inter-relation between disarmament and development which is due to open at the U.N. headquarters on August 24. It says it does not agree with the very idea of the conference, since it does not believe that there is inter-relation between disarmament and development.

The United States so cynically treats both disarmament and problems of the developing world that it did not even take pains to look for more decent causes to explain its stand. Washington's arguments are absurd. Perhaps nobody but the American Administration has any doubts that there is close inter-relation between disarmament and development. It is disarmament alone that can release big additional resources for overcoming economic backwardness. To that score there are concrete proposals of socialist and developing countries.

The arms race swallows huge manpower, financial, natural and technical resources, it is a heavy burden on the economy of all and particularly developing countries. According to U.N. data, the developing countries spend more than a third of their national income for military needs and import every year 26,000 million dollars worth of weapons. If military expenditures grow by only one per cent, the funds of development of agriculture in those countries reduce by 18 per cent. As was noted by chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe, socio-economic progress is inseparable from solution of disarmament problems.

Washington's stand shows above all that the interests of development of the "Third World" are alien to it. It is exactly through its exploitation that the United States pays for its military expenditures. There is a direct link between the U.S. annual military budget of 250,000-270,000 million dollars being approximately equal to the sum which is pumped out of the developing world, and U.S. total military expenditures in the past five years -- one trillion dollars -- being equal to the foreign debt of the developing world.

The United States' attitude was also arrogant these days to the work of another big international forum -- the 7th UNCTAD session. The U.S. mission at the United Nations reported that Washington did not intend to ratify the agreement on institution of the general fund for raw material resources, drawn up within the UNCTAD framework and bound to ensure a more stable and predictable situation in world markets. This is not in the interests of the United States which waxes fat on beating down prices of raw materials, infringing upon developing countries.

Disregard for two international forums exposes (?U.S.) neocolonialism.

DOBRYNIN RECEIVES U.S. MOVIE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

LD180328 Moscow TASS in English 1925 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS — Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, discussed some questions of Soviet-American relations here today.

They noted the importance of expanding cultural ties, including cinema, between the two countries and stressed their significance for deepening mutual trust among nations.

Jack Valenti said that broad circles of American intellectuals displayed interest in the activities of Mikhail Gorbachev who pays much attention to cultural and spiritual life of Soviet society.

Jack Valenti is staying in Moscow in connection with the 15th International Film Festival.

YAKOVLEV MEETS CANADIAN COMMUNIST PARTY HEAD

LD180330 Moscow TASS in English 1927 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS — Aleksandr Yakovlev, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and a Central Committee secretary, today met with William Kashtan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Canada.

William Kashtan highly assessed the CPSU's foreign policy activity, aimed at building a non-violent world, free from nuclear weapons. He noted that the questions of combatting the threat of a nuclear war and promoting Canada's independent foreign policy course in the interests of stronger peace and international cooperation were paramount in the work of Canadian Communists.

Aleksandr Yakovlev spoke about the creative efforts of Soviet Communists and all people to fulfill the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the January and June 1987 plenary meetings of the CPSU Central Committee, about a revolutionary reconstruction drive in the country.

Radical changes, under way in the USSR, and the policy of accelerating socio-economic development, William Kashtan said, evoke great interest in different strata of Canadian society.

BRIEFS

U.S. LAWYERS VISIT — Moscow July 13 TASS — Today the Soviet stay of a group of U.S. lawyers ended with a round table meeting at Friendship House with representatives of the Soviet Lawyers' Association. Their visit was organized in line with the practice of U.S.-Soviet exchanges. Apart from Moscow, American lawyers visited Leningrad and Kharkov (Soviet Ukraine). [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 13 Jul 87 LD]

BARAKHTA DESCRIBES CPC'S 'RECTIFICATION' PROCESS

PM171509 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[B. Barakhta article: "Solving Complex Tasks. The CPC Prepares for Its Routine Congress"]

[Text] Party conferences of provincial party organizations are being held in China. One of the main questions on the agenda is the election of delegates to the 13th CPC Congress, which is reportedly to convene this fall. The party's rectification is one of the main problems in this period. This was the orientation given to the party by the decisions of its 12th congress and the special resolution of the second plenum of the CPC Central Committee, 12th Convocation, held in October 1983.

A central commission in charge of the CPC's rectification, chaired by the general secretary of the party Central Committee, was formed to implement these decisions. A broad circle of questions of an ideological, political, and organizational nature had to be explained. Special organs were also set up to do the job at provincial level.

The rectification was intended to take place in two stages. At the first stage it affected the party organizations in central party and state institutions and the leadership organs of provinces, cities under central jurisdiction, autonomous regions, and the army. The second stage, which ended recently, involved the inspection of CPC grassroot organizations.

The rectification began just over 3 years ago. That was, in many respects, a crucial time for the PRC. Work on overcoming the negative phenomena of the "Cultural Revolution" (1966-1976) was at its height in the country, and the complex processes of restructuring and transformations in agriculture, industry, the social sphere, science, and culture were under way. Of course, new developments were not greeted with approval always and everywhere in China. The Chinese press wrote and still writes at length and frankly about the complexities and difficulties of the CPC's rectification process.

The newspaper RENMIN RIBAO noted in an editorial: "At the present historical turning point, many party members and senior party personnel have failed to understand the essence of the changes taking place. They have still not cast off the blinkers of leftist ideology and have doubts about the Central Committee's instructions on industry and the countryside, describing them as a retreat from socialism and the propagation of capitalism."

At the same time, the appropriate CPC Central Commitee documents make it clear that rectification was also aimed against those who had "failed to withstand the influence of bourgeois ideology," "lost faith in socialism," and "degenerated." "Serious negative phenomena appeared in many party organizations," RENMIN RIBAO noted, "including abuse of official position for the purpose of profiteering, corruption, and total disregard of party and state laws."

By the time the second stage of rectification began, according to data published by the journal HONGQI, about 5 percent of rural party cells were in a state of "paralysis." In many places this indicator was much higher. An inspection carried out in Beijing grassroot organizations, for example, revealed that only 36 percent of party members "meet the demands made of communists."

Particular emphasis has been placed recently on the sturggle against "bourgeois liberalism" in the interests of achieving unity of views within the CPC and ensuring "consistent implementation" of the Central Committee directives. This work, as a recent notification by the CPC Central Committee Propaganda Department pointed out, will help to efficiently overcome "slackness and confusion on the ideological and political front."

The results of the 3 years of rectification within the CPC were summed up recently. According to RENMIN RIBAO, this work involved the investigation of 400,000 cases of people who built careers on the wave of the "Cultural Revolution." It is well known that 18 million persons joined the CPC during that period. By now, according to data supplied by Bo Yibo, deputy chairman of the Central Commission in charge of the CPC's rectification, around 5,500 of those promoted in 1966-1976 have been "purged" from the party, together with more than 43,000 CPC members who had committed "serious mistakes."

Furthermore, around 34,000 persons were expelled from the CPC during the process of reregistration of party members, while more than 90,000 "were not registered as party members." Different penalties were imposed on almost 185,000 CPC members in the course of rectification.

By the end of last year the CPC ranks contained around 45 million persons. There were almost 2.6 million grassroot party organizations, of which 1.3 million were in the countryside. More than 22 miilion CPC members work or live in the countryside. According to data published by the journal HONGQI, party members under the age of 25 years represent less than 4 percent of CPC membership, while those aged 26-30 years represent around 14 percent. Some 4 percent of Chinese communists have completed their higher or secondary specialized education, while 10 percent are illiterate. As regards senior party committee personnel at provincial and district level, the proportion of people with specialized education in them has been raised in the last few years fom 14 to 44 percent and from 11 to 45 percent repectively. During the years of rectification, according to reports in the Chinese press, more than 1 million elderly party and state apparatus officals "resigned their positions."

The work on rectification testifies to the desire to enhance the CPC's militancy and effectiveness as the PRC working people's vanguard in solving today's task of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development.

KARPYCHEV COMMENTS ON FUROR OVER TOSHIBA EXPORTS

PM171518 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Second Editon p 5

[A. Karpychev commentary on TASS report under the rubric "Fact and Opinion": "The Lesson of 'Righteous' Wrath" -- first paragraph is TASS report]

[Text] Tokyo, 16 Jul -- Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone has accused the Toshiba Kikai company of "betraying national interests." The company is now at the center of the furor provoked by the Pentagon over deliveries of a few metal-working machine tools to the Soviet Union. They supposedly enabled Soviet enterprises to produce noiseless propellors for submarines. Answering a question in parliament from a deputy of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Nakasone accused Toshiba Kikai of undermining "national security" and blamed it for the critical tension in Japanese-American relations.

[Kaprychev] I would never have expected the people whom I talked with in the 39-floor headquarters of Toshiba in Tokyo to be accused of "betraying national interests." On the contrary, the discussion of the firm's work and achievements seemed to indicate that the bosses do not regard the interests as separate from the Japanese "miracle," from the country's interests.

There is plenty to see at Toshiba. First and foremost there is its up-to-date output, in which the talent and labor of Japanese scientists, specalists, and workers are invested. It is one of the world's leading companies for the production of integrated circuits. Then there is the sophisticated production management system, where there is no paper, only computers scattered all over the building, and staffers who "talk to" them. Then there is the satellite communications with their enterprises abroad, and the high-speed elevators -- 100 meters a second -- which noiselessly lift you to any floor of the headquarters building.

The conversation during the meeting at Toshiba was interesting. But now I would particularly single out three points.

First. Our interlocutors expressed the desire to extend cooperation with the USSR.

The second point. The attitude toward the U.S. SDI. I realized that at the time people were cautious about it. "We have been told nothing specific about the content of SDI. We do not know whether they are offensive or defensive weapons." But at the same time both here and at other meetings voices were heard expressing the view that if the Japanese reject SDI, they are bound to fall behind in the development of the latest technologies.

A third point which nobody doubts in business circles -- difficulties can be expected in the near future in economic relations with the United States.

These difficulties did arise. No, not of their own accord. The fall in the dollar rate, which was largely unexpected to many Japanese firms which export their products, the desire on the part of certain U.S. circles to gring sophisticated Japanese technology into the "Star Wars" program, the Toshiba Kikai affair -- I think there is one thing behind all this.

Toshiba was given an object lesson in "righteous" wrath, and this lesson should serve as a warning to others. [paragraph continues]

Manufacturing firms, the newspapers report, have begun to be nervous when "there is a question of a deal with communist countries." How could they help but be nervous... Japanese firms were stunned to watch on television as members of the U.S. Congress broke up Toshiba "goods" on the Capitol lawn.

But the most curious aspect is probably something else -- how Japanese officials are trying to reassure their furious friends and partners. We already know the Japanese prime minister's reaction. He accused the Japanese business world of... "a loss of responsibility..." Speaking in parliament, he made no secret of the U.S. side's "bad impression" from the "Toshiba affair." Hajime Tamura, minister of international trade and industry, is prepared to offer "apologies" to Washington for creating "problems" for the "national security" of... the United States. Supervision of trade with the socialist countries will be tightened up. The ministry has kept its word. The number of inspectors on its staff who monitor compliance with the bans imposed by the coordinating committee for the control of exports to socialist countries (COCOM) is being increased. Japanese military departments have also set about reassuring Washington, expressing readiness to send their servicemen to the COCOM headquarters in Paris to "assist" in exposing "illegal exports."

The "incident" which has shaken the nerves of the prime minister, his entourage, and business circles in Japan is not as simple as all that. I think the newspaper ASAHI said what certain officials prefer to keep quiet about. In an editorial article it expresses doubt over the U.S. assertions that the incident damaged the security of Western countries, first and foremost the United States. In this connection Japanese circles are expressing critical opinions to the effect that the United States is trying to undermine Japanese companies specializing in highly complex technology. In connection with the forthcoming visit to Japan by the minister of international trade and industry to discuss with the U.S. side measures to prevent violations of the COCOM restrictions, ASAHI expresses the hope that he does not come under the influence of U.S. emotion and take "shortsighted steps."

And as for the noiseless propellors for submarines, the minister himself, on the eve of his departure for the United States, stated that there is no clear evidence about this.

VINOGRADOV VIEWS F-16 DEPLOYMENT AT MISAWA AFB

PM171409 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[V. Vinogradov article under rubric "Cartoon With Commentary": "Pentagon's 'Nuclear Spear'"]

[Text] AKAHATA used to call the U.S. airbase at Misawa in the north of the Japanese island of Honshu "the Pentagon's nuclear spear." This accurate definition comes to mind again today, and not by chance: The process of transferring American F-16 fighter bombers to this base -- as is well known, these aircraft can carry nuclear arms on board -- is now complete. There are now 50 of these aircraft at Misawa and they will remain permanently stationed there.

Five years ago, having obtained official Tokyo's consent, the U.S. command decided to station two squadrons of its F-16 fighter bombers at Misawa. The Pentagon's active development of this military installation began at that point. It set up radar stations and long-range communications antennae here. At the base itself it has built new runways and improved the existing ones; it also built dumps for storing nuclear arms and underground shelters where all 10,000 U.S. personnel could take cover if the need should arise. And then the stationing of the F-16 aircraft themselves began.

It is significant that Pentagon officials have not concealed their reasons for choosing Misawa. They have stressed that Sakhalin and the Soviet Maritime Kray are within the range of the American nuclear-capable aircraft stationed at Misawa. If the F-16's were to be equipped with air-launched nuclear cruise missiles (the Pentagon already has a plan for this) this strike range could be increased by a further 2,500 km.

Ever since they appeared at Misawa, the F-16 aircraft have been indispensable participants in the numerous air force exercises and maneuvers in the region organized by the Pentagon in conjunction with the Japanese "Self-Defense Forces." Methods of waging nuclear war, including operations to carry out strikes at maximum range using KC-135 tanker aircraft, are rehearsed during these militarist exercises. The most recent major maneuvers in the Misawa region were held last month. They involved F-16 aircraft not only from this airbase but also some specially transferred from the United States, as well as radar reconnaissance aircraft.

Quite naturally, the constant presence of 50 U.S. nuclear-capable aircraft on the Japanese archipelago is causing very justified concern in neighboring countries. This is because both the F-16 fighter bombers and the sea-launched "Tomahawk" nuclear missiles stationed in the region, KYODO points out, will give the United States the potential in an "emergency" to open up a so-called "second front" in the Asian and Pacific region in addition to its "first front" in Europe. That is, it will give Washington the opportunity to carry out a nuclear strike in this region.

There is no doubt that the prospect is extremely dangerous!

PROBLEMS IN USSR-SRV COOPERATION PROJECTS VIEWED

PM131145 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[G. Kuznetsov article: "Amendments to the Plan: Notes on the Problems of and Prospects for Soviet-Vietnamese Cooperation"]

[Excerpts] Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Moscow -- [Passage omitted] We are standing on a hill 70 km from Ho Chi Minh City, as the former Saigon is now called, next to a special pedestal on which is mounted one of the guns which fired on the occupiers 12 years ago. Some 50 meters from the gun is a long, gray, two-story building with a placard on it which reads: "Commissioning the first unit in 1987 -- this is our law, our responsibility, our honor." The building houses the construction administration for the Chian [name as published] hydroelectric power station, the largest and most important Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation project in South Vietnam. [passage omitted]

A reservoir and conduits are being built at the power station construction site. But great tension can be felt. The schedule is not being maintained. The SRV Ministry of Building, which is responsible for concreting work, is short of skilled cadres.

"As a worker of the SRV Ministry of Power with experience in hydroelectric power station construction, I can say that this is the most efficient construction project I have ever taken part in," explains Nguyen Tien Lap, deputy chief of construction administration. "But my worry is whether we will receive all the necessary equipment on time..."

Responsibility for equipment supplies rests with Tekhnopromeksport and Zagranenergostroymontazh. They are mindful of the responsibility which they bear.

Construction administration chief Fam Tkhan Kuang [name as published] has some remarks to make about the "distribution of blueprints" by Gidroproyekt -- ths process must be speeded up because the pace of construction is outstanding planning. The Kuybyshev workers responsible for this section must get their act together.

"We cannot allow the commissioning of the station's first unit to be delayed through the Soviet side's fault," Viktor Ivanovich Fedotov, head of the Ho Chi Minh City Department of the Apparatus of the Economic Adviser to the SRV, said with justified concern.

But if Chian is an example of good organization, initiative, and new thinking, the 4,000-tonne capacity refrigerator plant that is being built with Soviet assistance in Ho Chi Minh city is a long-term construction project which is giving quite a few headaches to Nguyen Van Ki [name as published], a graduate of the G.V Plekhanov Institute of the National Economy, who is deputy general director of the Vietnamese commission for the export of fruit and vegetables and is responsible for all the operations in the south of the country. The abbreviation SNIP, which stands for the construction norms and rules (stroitelnyye normy i pravila] operating in our country and being applied in Vietnam, cause the greatest problems through being almost unintelligible to the uninitiated.

Seven years ago the Gidrokholod institute approved a cold store construction plan signed by Vasyutovich, the institute's chief engineer, and Tyukavina, the chief project engineer, with options for temperate and northern climates; in other words, in accordance with the construction norms and rules. [paragraph continues]

For southern regions, and Ho Chi Minh City, as everyone knows, is in the tropics, we have no construction norms and rules despite many years of cooperation with countries in Asia and Africa. As a result heavy reinforced concrete girders (which, because of the soft ground, require the foundations of the main building to be supported with 800 26-meter piles) and other structures are being brought colossal distances.

After protracted negotiations Gidrokholod agreed last year that the compressor house, the administrative building, and the garage would be built according to Vietnam's (simplified) plans but not the refrigerator itself.

"The Soviet cold store, of course, is designed to work for 50 years with construction lasting for the duration of a 5-year plan. But techniques change and become old-fashioned. The Japanese built a 12,000 tonne cold store in Ho Chi Minh City in just 6 months on the assumption that it will operate for 5 years although in fact it will last a full 10 years. And it is working using modern equipment. While we are still building, that cold store is making a profit and recouping the construction costs. While we are still building, the inhabitants of the Soviet Far East, Kamchatka, and Sakhalin are not receiving all the fruit and vegetables which they otherwise could," Nguyen Van Ki rightly remarks.

Meanwhile, a cold store was a built in a short time in the city of Vung Tao, not far from Ho Chi Minh City, where Vietsovpetro, a joint Vietnamese-Soviet enterprise is in operation. Only the building was planned by Finns, the compressors were supplied by the USSR, and the Vietnamese did the work.

"We repeatedly suggested that the plan be changed and structures be lightened in view of our climate conditions, which would produce a saving of resources, concrete, and fittings but alas!" sighed construction engineer Fam Zung [name as published], who graduated from the Tashkent polytechnical institute 5 years ago. "Furthermore, at a neighboring site they are planning to build another refrigerator plant, also based on the old plan. Again everything hinges on the construction norms and rules!"

It is clear that in addition to the construction norms and rules it is also necessary to change the way of thinking and not work in the old way. Unfortunately the "pile it up now, sort it out later" approach applies almost everywhere. Among other things it threatens to harm the implementation of the very important and necessary "Geveya" [name as published] project, which is aimed at supplying the Soviet Union with SRV natural rubber.

Under the terms of the existing agreement, the Soviet side has to supply the equipment for its implementation -- tractors, bulldozers, and trucks. The Vietnamese side does the planting and equips new regions. But it is already clear even now that this year our friends will be able to fulfill the plans by approximately only one-third: After all, this is virgin land that is being opened up where there are neither people, roads, housing, nor food. Thus the question is: Is there any need to rush with the equipment which will then stand idle, rusting? Perhaps the deadlines should be reviewed in the light of the real conditions -- after all, this is costing the Soviet side losses running into many tens of millions of rubles.

And a point about the equipment. Roughly half of the 600 tractors sent are standing idle because there are no spares. But the assets are allocated at a rate of approximtely 25 percent of what is needed. So what happens is that single caterpillar track link is needed and they send a whole tractor. One UAZ [Urals truck plant] gearbox breaks down, they send a whole new vehicle. The State Agro-Industrial Committee and the Soyuzselkhozzagranpostavka are responsible for the fulfillment of the agreement.

But there is another aspect to the plan: The Dnepr tiremakers were not satisfied with the quality of the rubber received. The solution at the moment is to "dilute" it with Malay rubber. But when it begins to run into tens of thousands of tonnes the question of quality becomes very acute. And the more resources are invested in the "Geveya" project the larger the scale of the problem becomes. The point is that the rubber-production plants were built by the French in their time. But if a small part of the allocated millions were invested in new equipment so as to modernize production, and without delay, quality would be guaranteed. Why is this not being done? Clearly because of a lack of firm "contact" between the State Agro-Industrial Committee, which is involved in implementing the "Geveya" project, and the Chemical Industry Ministry, the rubber consumer.

To be frank, the Vietnamese side has its problems, too. They must also be overcome — our friends share this opinion — if organizaton, cohesion, and efficiency in work are to be raised to a new and higher level — all of which is a not unimportant link in the general chain of joint efforts. There are reserves there, too. It is with good reason that the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Central Committee resolution on organizing Vietnam's celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution sets the aim of improving cooperation efficiency.

"The strengthening of unity and the development of all-around ties with the Soviet Union is the cornerstone of the foreign policy of the CPV and the Vietnamese state," Chin Ngok Tkhay [name as published], deputy chief of the Central Committee Foreign Relations Department, told me. "Our party fully supports the 27th CPSU Congress line. We will struggle for the development and improvement of cooperation in the interests of our two countries and all the socialist states and of the cause of world peace."

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON DRA'S NAJIBULLAH IN MOSCOW

Discussions With Gorbachev

LD201741 Moscow TASS in English 1731 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS - Mikhail Gorbachev met in the Kremlin on July 20 with General Secretary of of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Najib who arrived in the Soviet Union for a brief visit.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Najib discussed in detail various aspects of Soviet-Afghan cooperation, exchanged opinions on a number of international problems, as well as problems connected with Afghanistan.

They expressed satisfaction with a high level of Soviet-Afghan relations which reflect national interests of the two neighbouring states and peoples. It was noted that the policy conducted by the Soviet Union and the DRA in bilateral ties and in the international arena creates favourable conditions for a successful advance along the road of national reconciliation of Afghans, for resolving the Afghan problem.

The mutual striving to strengthen and deepen all-round ties between the USSR and the DRA, constantly enriching them with new forms and directions, has been confirmed. This applies above all to the economic and trade cooperation, to direct ties of Soviet republics and regions with Afghan provinces.

Najib spoke about the implementation of the programme of national reconciliation which recently entered a new stage, about the efforts taken by the Afghan side to intensify the process of political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. He emphasized that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan consistently adheres to this programme, advances new constructive initiatives related to all aspects of the socio-political and economic life, of meeting the interests of various social strata of Afghan society.

A dialogue with opposition is widened. The course has been assumed at the creation of a coalition government, at pooling all national, patriotic forces. Najib stressed that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is prepared to establish contacts with all those who declare for national reconciliation, for peaceful and nonaligned Afghanistan.

A solid material and legal base for national reconciliation is being created. A draft new constitution of the Afghan state has been put to nation-wide discussion. The law on political parties which envisages the creation or legislation of other political organizations, in addition to the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the creation of press bodies by them, has been endorsed. The Afghan Government decided to extend for another six months, that is till January 15, 1988, the operation of its call for ceasefire. The Afghan side made a number of additional proposals to the governments of Pakistan and Iran with a view to normalising bilateral relations with these countries and settling the situation in the region on the whole. The DRA will continue doing all within its power to promote an early successful conclusion of the Geneva talks.

The first results of the policy of national reconciliation, which is organically linked with the process of peaceful settlement of the home and foreign aspects of the Afghan problem are already apparent. At the same time, hostilities do not yet subside on Afghan soil, Najib said. They are now waged mainly by bands of mercenaries sent into Afghanistan by extremist groups that got entrenched in neighbouring Pakistan. After the implementation of the programme of reconciliation started, the USA, Great Britain and some other countries sharply stepped up their military aid to those groups. Those countries supply them with up-to-date equipment, including "Stinger", "Blowpipe" anti-aircraft missiles. Peaceful people, including women, children, old people, are being killed.

Najib expressed sincere gratitude to the Soviet Union for a firm support of the policy of national reconciliation, of the concrete steps that are taken in Afghanistan to implement it.

Mikhail Gorbachev pointed to the coincidence of the assessments of the USSR and the DRA as regards the developments in Afghanistan and around it, the policy of national reconciliation. This is a correct policy, he said. It has entered a new stage now. This policy suits the vital interests of the Afghan people, enjoys the support of broad circles of Afghan society, of all those in the world who are really interested in a political settlement of the situation. Nobody either in Afghanistan or outside it has offered an alternative to the policy of national reconciliation. The Afghan people arrived at it through much suffering. It wants peace in its land.

Mikhail Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union wants Afghanistan to remain an independent, sovereign, nonaligned state. What road it will take, what government it will have, what development programme it will be implementing is for the Afghan people to decide. This is its sovereign right.

We shall continue developing cooperation with Afghanistan in the spirit of good traditions at whose origins V.I. Lenin was.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Najib discussed additional steps and measures in the interests of a speedier normalisation of the situation around Afghanistan.

When international problems were discussed it was stressed that the Soviet Union and Afghanistan declare for a nuclear weapons free, non-violent world, for the creation of an all-embracing system of security, for the development of interstate relations on the principles of peaceful coexistence. Najib said that Afghanistan supports the Soviet Union's constructive proposals aimed at the improvement of the international situation, also in Asia, at curbing the arms race.

In connection with the address of the Afghan side, an arrangement was reached on a joint Soviet-Afghan space flight. This flight will become a new manifestation of durable friendly ties between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

Mikhail Gorbachev invited Najib at the head of an Afghan delegation to come for the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the October revolution.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Anatoliy Dobrynin took part in the conversation.

DRA Accomplishments Noted

LD201800 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Mikhail Gorbachev has had a meeting with the Afghan leader Dr Najib who is in Moscow on a short working visit. The Soviet Union supports the Afghan Government's policy of national reconciliation. The USSR is hopeful that the current process of settling the Afghan problem both internally and internationally may bear fruit not in some distant future, but before too long.

Last week the Afghan Government extended by another 6 months its unilateral ceasefire with regard to counterrevolutionary groups. The ceasefire was effected on 15th January. The draft of the country's new constitution was published for a nationwide discussion. The draft envisages guarantees for the formation and activities of various political parties. It also points out that Afghanistan shall be guided by the principles of Islam, nonalignment, the United Nations Charter and the universal declaration of human rights.

News Conference Held

LD211112 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1040 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jul (TASS) -- The policy of national reconciliation has been converted from a slogan to reality; it is already bearing its first fruits, said Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee at a news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists that was held today at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press center.

In the 185 days since the declaration of a unilateral ceasefire, 1,335 villages have been liberated peacefully as well as a number of the country's provinces -- such as Nimruz, Farah, and others -- the Afghan leader reported. In the recent period 15,000 armed opponents of the revolution have gone over to the side of people's government. More than 60,000 former refugees have returned to the homeland.

The general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee touched upon the principles on which the future development of Afghanistan must rest. In particular he noted that the DRA will remain a neutral state. This implies the absence on its territory of armed forces and military bases from other countries.

On our side, he said, bold and specific steps have been made to meet the opposition halfway. Now it is up to them. We are ready to share power with the political opposition forces and have promulgqted the setting up of a multiparty system in the country. Among the state posts which are being proposed to the opposition forces are: vice president of the Revolutionary Council, and after the ratification of the constitution, vice president of the country, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, president of the Supreme Court, and others.

The country's draft constitution has been put to nationwide discussion and this discussion will be like a touchstone for determining who really advocates democracy and who intends to abuse it. In the draft constitution Islam has been proclaimed as the religion of the people of the DRA.

Replying to a question about the prospects for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Najibullah stated: Our position on this problem is a constructive one. Units of the limited contingent of Soviet troops have already been withdrawn from the DRA on two occasions — in 1982 and 1986. As soon as interference in the DRA's internal affairs by the U.S., its NATO allies, and regional reaction ceases and we receive appropriate international guarantees that the aggression will not be resumed in the future, the timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops — agreed on between the DRA and the USSR — will be implemented.

Replying to a U.S. journalist's question whether Najibullah would agree to leave his post if he became an impediment along the path toward the normalization of the situation in the country, he said this: For a real revolutionary the sense of life is to be found in the struggle for the interests of the people and for the sake of this he is ready to sacrifice not merely his post but also his life.

The general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee highly appraised the significance of the talks with Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He pointed to the Soviet leader's constructive approach toward all questions under discussion.

DRA Attitude on Islam Cited

LD211009 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1909 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jul (TASS) — In the draft DRA constitution Islam is proclaimed as the religion of the people of Afghanistan, said Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. He spoke at a news conference for foreign and Soviet journalists here today.

Our relations with the religious leaders, Ulemas, are at a very high level, said the Afghan leader. Among other things, he said that recently 270 mosques have been built and restored in the DRA. At the University of Kabul there is a faculty of religion; 13 religious schools are open in the country; there is a Ministry for the Affairs of Islam and religious trusts; a center of Islamic research has been created. Recently, pilgrims have been allowed to visit Mecca by plane every week. In addition, the state undertakes to pay half the expenses.

For the first time in the history of our country an international Koran recitation competition has taken place in Kabul which many representatives from Arab countries participated in. To our pleasure, noted Najibullah, the Afghan representative won first place.

We show respect toward Islam. However, there are people, who under cover of banners for Islam's defense, clothe themselves in the robes of Islam but in reality damage Islam. They are burning the mosques where the Koran is kept. The Afghan people see all this and fully understand who really speaks for the defense of Islam.

As far as relations with the Arab and other Muslim countries are concerned, the DRA is sincerely striving toward strengthening and widening links with them, stated Najibullah.

Visit Ends, Departure Reported

LD211151 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1139 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jul (TASS) — Najibullah, PDPA Central Committee General Secretary, left Moscow today after completing a short visit. Seeing him off at the airport were Eduard Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member USSR minister of foreign affairs; Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and other officials.

DRA'S PROCESS OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION CONTINUES

LD210920 Moscow TASS in English 0906 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Kabul Jul 21 TASS — The Presidium of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation discussed at its scheduled meeting yesterday here the practical implementation of the reconciliation poicy in Afghanistan. The participants in the meeting approved the measures taken by the provincial commissions to draw in the working of the local bodies of power authoritative representatives of the population, elders, refugees returning home and leaders of armed groups, which gave up resistance to people's power. The commission also examined proposals concerning an amnesty and a cut in the prison tems for some categories of convicted persons.

Even more Afghans, who in the past left their homeland, deceived by the propaganda of the enemies of the April Revolution, are returning home. In the course of one day, July 20, alone, more than 800 persons returned in Jowzjan and Kabul Provinces. The local authorities provided for them housing and gave them material aid.

The Afghan people continue discussing the draft new constitution of the country. Meetings devoted to that were held yesterday at Nangarhar University, the Cannery Zeitun (Nangarhar Province), in the main mosque of Bagrami District, in Abu, Obeid and Jaujani Lyceums (Jowzjan Province) in many other provinces, districts and villages.

BIRYUKOV ANALYZES NAJIBULLAH 14 JULY ADDRESS

LD151936 Moscow TASS in English 1733 GMT 15 Jul 87

["A Call for Reason and Realism — TASS News Analysis" — TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS — By TASS Political News Analyst Askold Biryukov:

A new call for reason and realism has come from Kabul. In a televised address to fellow-countrymen, including those who are still fighting the people's government, Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, has expressed readiness to announce, starting from today, a complete ceasefire for another six months — to last till January 15, 1988.

He has said that Afghan soldiers will not fire at anyone if the opposite side takes the same commitment.

The Afghan leader has also expressed readiness to establish in the near future a coalition government with a wide-scale participation of representatives of the other side (as a matter of fact members of previous regimes are already represented in the current government) and to discuss jointly a draft constitution which should become the principal document of national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee has underlined the vital need for making efforts without delay to create conditions for peaceful work and tranquil life of the Afghans.

Let us recall that six months ago the Afghan Government started the policy of national reconciliation. A ceasefire announced simultaneously became an integral part of that policy. And its implementation has produced first promising results. Many armed formations which used to fight the people's government have heeded the voice of reason and downed arms.

Many members of the opposition are joining in the process of national reconciliation. Some of them are taking an active part in the work of commissions for national reconciliation, others are joining central and local bodies of authority.

The law legalizing political parties promotes the attainment of the aim of early establishment of peace in the country and intensified activities of all patriotic forces.

In a word, the process of consolidation of forces capable of ending bloodshed in the country and opening up the road toward constructive work for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan is consistently gathering momentum.

The latest call that has come from Kabul is designed to give an additional impetus to that process which is raising hopes in the hearts of the Afghans and which is making true friends of the people of that country happy.

And what do we see "on the other side of the barricades"? — a mounting malicious anti-Afghan campaign, a sustained effort to fan up the flames of the fratricidal war in Afghanistan, to weaken that country, bleed it white and make it easy prey for those who cannot put up with the existence of an independent, neutral and nonaligned state friendly to the Soviet Union and other neighboring countries.

The Washington correspondent of the Indian EXPRESS newspaper S.A. Ayar, quoting sources in the U.S. Administration, reported that Washington intended to scale up supplies of the newest weapons to Afghan counter-revolutionaries.

The reporter wrote that American officials declared that the U.S. would make available to the rebels any weapons they demanded for continuing the war against the Kabul government.

U.S. Administration officials are only too happy when Stinger anti-aircraft missiles delivered to the counterrevolutionaries down civilian plane carrying old people [words indistinct] cannot help recalling the words of American journalist Selig Harrison who said that Washington's policy toward Afghanistan was to fight to the last Afghan and prevent in every way the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country.

But his is a shameful policy which has no prospects before it. The living and succeeding generations of Afghans are bound to remind the United States of that for many years to come.

Kabul's call gives the opposition an opportunity to conduct talks with the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan -- talks that would create conditions for the return of the Soviet military contingent home.

Will the opposition embark on the platform of national reconciliation and dialogue? The answer to this question determines where Afghanistan will go -- toward peace or toward a continued fratricidal war to the pleasure of the enemies of the Afghan people.

DRA'S KESHTMAND GREETS RYZHKOV FROM AIRCRAFT

PM150823 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Wish for Success"]

[Text] Soltan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, has sent a telegram to N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, from his aircraft. It said: "As I fly over your great country, I would like to convey my most ardent greetings and very best wishes for good health to you and for great success to the Land of the Soviets."

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON EGYPTIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT

LD201957 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1828 GMT 20 Jul 87

["Joint Communique on Egyptian Delegation's Visit to the USSR" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jul (TASS) -- Representatives of the Soviet and Egyptian public express their firm adherence to the aims and principles of the anti-imperialist movement for Afro-Asian solidarity, says the joint communique issued here today on the results of the stay in the USSR by a delegation of the Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, headed by its chairman Ahmad Hamrush. The delegation was present in the USSR 13-20 July at the invitation of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Afro-Asian countries. The delegation included representatives of the leadership of political parties and prominent public figures in Egypt.

During discussion of topical problems of the Afro-Asian solidarity movement, the document notes, particular attention was devoted to the situations in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf and the Mediterrean. The representatives of the two sides expressed themselves in favor of a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East conflict on the basis of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, and of the realization by the Arab people of Palestine of their inalienable national rights to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state. They expressed the conviction that the international community must act more decisively in support of efforts to convoke a peace conference on the Middle East under the aegis of the United Nations with the participation of all parties involved, including the PLO, the only legitimate representative of the Arab People of Palestine.

The resolve to promote within AAPSO the most rapid halt to the Iran-Iraq war and the normalization of the situation in the persian Gulf, was stressed. The sides exchanged opinions on ways for Afro-Asian peoples to participate in efforts to turn the Mediterreanean into a zone of stable peace and cooperation, spoke in support of the national reconciliation process in Afghanistan, and demanded an end to imperialist interference in its internal affairs.

Representatives of the Soviet and Egyptian pubic affirmed their invariable solidarity with the courageous fighters against apartheid and racism, headed by the African National Congress, and the liberation struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO [South-West Africa People's Organization], and exchanged opinions on efforts by AAPSO on issues relating to improving the situation in the Asiatic-Pacific region, turning the Indian Ocean into a peace zone, and reorganizing international economic relations on a just an democratic basis.

The members of the Egyptian delegation showed great interest in the revolutionary reforms taking place in the USSR and gave a high assessment of the USSR's peace-loving policies and its practical actions directed toward a radical improvement in the international situation.

KUWAITI PRIME MINISTER HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

LD202116 Moscow TASS in English 2104 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait July 20 TASS — At a press conference which was held in Kuwait today prime minister of the country Shaykh Said al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah has said that Kuwaiti vessel reflagging steps are no challenge and no invitation for foreign interference into affairs of the region. Kuwait spared no effort to stop the Iranian-Iraqi war, which is in its seventh year, both on its own and in cooperation with other countries — members of the cooperation council for Arab states of the Gulf, the League of Arab States and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

The head of government noted that being very close to the front, Kuwait is experiencing more than any other country the devastating consequences of the war. The danger of its spreading, the threat to peace and security both in the region and the whole world.

U.S. GULF POLICY EXAMINED, COMING DAYS 'CRITICAL'

LD101756 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 9 Jul 87

[From "The World Today" program presented by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov]

[Excerpts] The astonishingly beautiful turquoise-colored gulf, which is called by the Arabs the Arab Gulf and by the Iranians and subsequently the Europeans and other foreigners the Persian Gulf, has become the center of a dangerous international crisis. As you know, a senseless war between Iran and Iraq blazes on the shores of this gulf. It is the so-called tanker war, which flared up in the waters of the Persian Gulf and which devours peaceful merchant vessels. Passions are growing high over the presence here of foreign naval vessels belonging to states which are thousands of kilometers from this region. The next few days and weeks are likely to be especially criticial.

As Washington has stated on several occasions, the U.S. flag is to be hoisted on 11 Kuwaiti tankers in mid-July. The U.S. warships, which have taken up their starting positions in the Persian Gulf zone, are getting ready to escort the Kuwaiti oil tankers. Along with other Arab counties of the Persian Gulf, Kuwait renders financial and political support to Iraq. For that reason it has become the target of sabotage, terrorist actions, and threats from pro-Iranian groupings. There have been several explosions at Kuwaiti oil installations recently. Kuwaiti tankers have been blown up by mines. In these conditions Kuwait undertook a number of measures to ensure the security of its territorial waters and the safe exports of its oil via the Straits of Hormuz, which has turned into a particularly dangerous spot on the transport routes of the Persian Gulf. One of these measures was the agreement on the escorting of Kuwaiti tankers by U.S. warships.

But if in Kuwait's case this measure is dictated by concern about the safety of shipping, for the United States, which is attempting to exploit the tense situation, this is just an opportunity for establishing its military and political hegemony in that strategically important region, which Washington claims is a sphere of vital U.S. interests. The Reagan administration claims that it has to intensify the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf in order to keep open the oil routes, that it has to convince its Arab allies of U.S. credibility -- and their trust was severely damaged by Irangate -- and that it has to block the active Soviet penetration into the region. The United States has concentrated in the Persian Gulf zone 15 naval vessels and 11,000 servicemen and has carried out a simulated military operation in the event that an extraordinary situation develops.

Indeed, such a situation could develop. The waters of the Persian Gulf are packed with the naval vessels of the United States, Britain and other NATO countries. Even an insignificant incident could grow into an international crisis. [passage omitted]

It is necessary to undertake resolute measures for the improvement of the entire situation in this region. The Soviet government works precisely toward this. You obviously know that it recently proposed that all naval vessels of states unconnected with this region should be withdrawn from the waters of the Persian Gulf as soon as possible, and that Iran and Iraq would, in their own turn, refrain from actions which threaten international shipping.

This initiative met with a postive response, including on the Iranian side. The U.S. Administration also gave it thought. A spokesman stated that under certain conditions the United States is prepared to review the situation in the Persian Gulf in order to reduce the U.S. military presence here. That is nicely said, but Washington continues to conceal its plans behind false statements about the growing Soviet threat in the Persian Gulf basin, where there are -- so to speak -- only a few of our naval vessels, which escort Soviet merchant vessels and do not in any way participate in whipping up tension in that region.

Of course, if the armada of U.S. and other NATO vessels leaves the Persian Gulf, our country will join in these steps. We have actively and consistently stood for the speediest possible halting of the Iran-Iraq war for its transfer to the channel of the peaceful political talks.

The United Nations and its Security Council has an important role to play in this. As has become known from the statement by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the Security Council is to examine as soon as possible the resolution calling for the cessation of the protracted and senseless bloodshed. The tense situation in the Persian Gulf zone does not need a gunboat policy but a policy of constructive steps dictated by the interests of preserving peace and strengthening international security.

IRAN PLANS 'KAMIKAZE' SEA RAIDS IN GULF

PM141443 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 87 Second Edition pp 1, 5

[Yu. Glukhov dispatch under the rubric "International Information" and general heading "Roundup of PRAVDA Correspondents' Reports for 13 July"]

[Text] The Persian Gulf: Tension is Rising [subhead]

Another tanker flying the Liberian flag, owned by a U.S. company in this instance, has been attacked in the Persian Gulf. It was subjected to fire from hand-held rocket launchers carried on motorboats.

According to Beirut newspapers, a "marine wing" of the "Guards of the Islamic Revolution" organization has been set up in Iran. The "Defenders of the Gulf," as they are calling themselves, are equipped with small-caliber weapons and operate from high-speed motorboats and rubber dinghies based on the islands in the Persian Gulf.

Speaking on Tehran television, the commander of the "Guards of the Islamic Revolution" announced upcoming "self-sacrifice maneuvers" at sea which are to be carried out by the "Defenders of the Gulf." Tehran is clearly intending to wage guerrilla warfare at sea, relying, in particular, on the Iranian kamikaze.

Arab political observers point out that the special danger of the situation which has taken shape here lies in the fact that events are escalating and this is regarded by the U.S. militarist circles as a suitable pretext for an armed intervention in the region's affairs.

PRAVDA VIEWS TURKISH PREMIER'S DAMASCUS VISIT

PM201413 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent Yu. Glukhov dispatch: "Following the Path of Good-neighborliness"]

[Text] Damascus, 19 July -- Turkish Prime Minister T. Ozal has concluded a 3-day visit to Damascus -- the first in the history of Syrian-Turkish relations since Syria became independent. It is reported that protocols on security and economic cooperation were signed as a result of the talks that were held. Questions of ensuring tranquillity on their common border, the utilization of water resources, and the development of cooperation in various spheres were the object of fruitful discussion.

For Syria, subject to Israeli aggression on its southern flank, it is important that its northern border be a border of peace and friendship . Tel Aviv derives strength from U.S. and NATO support, and Turkey is a member of that bloc.

The question of the utilization of water resources is also of vital importance. Major hydroengineering projects and the development prospects of three countries -- Turkey, Syria, and Iraq -- are linked with the waters of the Euphrates and the Tigris. These rivers rise in Turkey, but the question of quotas for their distribution still remains open.

Evaluating positively the results of the talks held, the Syrian news media note the consistency of Syria's implementation of the policy of good-neighborliness. The normalization of relations with Jordan and efforts to stabilize the situation in Lebanon have been steps on this path.

CPSU OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR MOROCCO PARTY CONGRESS

LD161713 Moscow TASS in English 1607 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS -- At the invitation of the leadership of Morocco's Party of Progress and Socialism, a CPSU representative Yuriy Sklyarov, head of the Propaganda Department of the CPSU Central Committee, left Moscow for Rabat today to attend the party's 4th congress.

JOINT VENTURES TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH INDIA

BK160309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have agreed on steps to stabilize their trade, mapping out coordination of production and joint ventures. The measures have been incorporated in a protocol signed by the commerce secretary, Mr Prem Kumar, and the Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade Minister, Mr Bavrin. The protocol followed 3 days of deliberations in Moscow by the Indo-Soviet Working Group on Trade.

PRAVDA NOTES DAKAR MEETING OF ANC, RSA WHITES

PM171605 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

["Commentator's Column" by Aleksandr Serbin: "Time To Break Down the Barriers"]

[Text] There has been a meeting in Dakar between an African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) delegation and representatives of the white RSA community opposed to apartheid. The participants in the meeting discussed the possibilities of RSA political development free of racist barriers and founded on a nonracist, democratic basis.

The inexorable march of time dooms to failure all attempts to save the inhuman apartheid system. Despite the Pretoria authorities' repression, the liberation movement -- in which the decisive role is played by the oppressed black masses -- is gathering momentum. The ANC-led armed struggle against apartheid is increasing in scale. Under the impact of these realities, profound changes are taking place within the white RSA community and the unity of the white minority, concerned with saving its own skin, is cracking.

The Dakar meeting reflected the ANC's great authority as the main organizer of the forces storming the bastions of racial inequality and oppression. Also in evidence at the meeting was the ANC's awareness of its responsibility for the future of a country it wishes to see unified, democratic, and building its life on a nonracist basis.

The 50 or so participants in the Dakar dialogue from the RSA -- businessmen, academics, writers, religious figures -- represented the section of the white community that has risen in opposition to the regime. This opposition has recently gained a much clearer insight into the political and economic bankruptcy of the apartheid system and the futility and danger of the policy aimed at deepening the country's racial split that is being pursued by official Pretoria.

The Dakar meeting helped them to become more broadly aware of what is happening in their country. "I was struck by the clarity of the ANC's aims and its logic, combined with its ardent love for South Africa," the lawyer Lorens du Plessis [name as published] said after the meeting. "Now I have a better idea of the moral incentives for the ANC's armed struggle and recognize it as a historical reality," the priest Teuns Eloff [name as published] summed up his impressions.

The Senegalese capital witnessed an exchange of opinions between people who regard apartheid as an enemy of progress and mankind. It helped to bring about an understanding of each other's positions but was, nevertheless, only a dialogue. Racists are still in power in the RSA and are still maintaining a state of emergency in the country and attempting to deal with apartheid's enemies by violent means. They have already begun to issue threats against people who took part in the Dakar meeting.

But the fact that this meeting took place and opposition to the racist system is growing shows that the apartheid leaders are no longer in a position to impose their will on others as before. The time is coming to break down the barriers. The more people have a hand in this, the sooner the hour of freedom will come.

TASS CITES POLISH GOVERNMENT MEMO ON DISARMAMENT

LD201821 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Warsaw July 20 TASS -- The Government of the Polish People's Republic again expresses the desire to make a specific contribution to efforts for disarmament and strengthening of international security, especially in central Europe, says a memorandum by the Polish Government on reducing armaments and strengthening confidence in central Europe, which was circulated by the PAP agency today.

The Polish Government is convinced, the document says, that at present there are conditions to lessen the danger of an armed conflict in Europe, especially to prevent a possibility of a surprise attack.

The plan of reducing armaments and strengthening confidence in central Europe, presented by the Polish Government, embraces the territories of Belgium, Hungary, the GDR, the FRG, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and Poland, including their territorial waters and airspace.

The plan provides for the gradual pull-out and reduction of the jointly agreed upon types of nuclear weapons, specifically theatre missles, nuclear artillery, nuclear capable planes;

The gradual pull-out and reduction of the jointly agreed upon types of conventional armaments, primarily the most accurate and destructive intended for conducting offensive operations, including surprise attack;

Joint actions aimed at changing the character of military doctrines for them to be mutually recognised as exclusively defensive;

Coordination of far-reaching confidence and security-building measures and also mechanisms of strict verification of compliance with the obligations undertaken, including those which for different reasons it would be difficult to apply all over Europe.

A system for verification of the fulfillment of obligations could be established to ensure the fulfillment of conserted measures. It would be comprising the means of national and international control, mutually recognized to be effective, including on-site observation and inspections. Organs of control with the participation of the states concerned and third countries could be instituted.

The memorandum points to the opportunity of expanding with the passage of time the territory specified in the plan through other European states, including neutral and nonaligned, joining in the plan. It is emphasized that the conserted measures should be based on equal rights and equal security of all the parties.

News Conference Reported

LD202025 Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Warsaw July 20 TASS -- The Polish Government's memorandum on the question of arms reduction and confidence-building in central Europe expresses Poland's national interests which coincide with the interests of European countries and the whole world, a spokesman for the Polish Foreign Ministry said today.

Poland's peaceful initiative is aimed at promoting arms reduction in the area of delimitation of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries on the basis of partial actions in the sphere of disarmament, he said at a press ocnference here.

The Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized an open nature of the memorandum and said that it is only by joint actions, step-by-step, with taking into account the security of all sides that European security can be created. In drawing up the proposals the Polish side took the opinion of partners into account. Everything that is of substantial importance for joint security was agreed upon in consultations with socialist states. The opinions expressed in the West were also taken into account.

After bilateral talks and consultations the authors of the document intend to submit it for discussion of a future European peace conference, the Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

NIKONOV VISITS POLISH COMBINE, MEETS WORKERS

LD202353 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by V. Beletskiy, identified by screen caption]

[Text] Comrade Nikonov's working visit to the Polish People's Republic is continuing. Comrade Nikonov visited the Igloopol state agro-industrial combine in Debice in Tarnow voivodship. [video shows overview of combine, cutting to shot of Nikonov with a group of officials]

The high-level Soviet guest was warmly and cordially welcomed here, with flowers and songs. [video shows a folk ensemble performing] An entire family: mother, son, daughters, and granddaughters belong to this folk ensemble.

(Edward Brzostowski), the combine's general director, described this enterprise which serves the needs of many industries and operates in seven voivodships, mainly in the southeastern regions. This is one of the country's largest and best agro-industrial combines. The Igloopol grows good harvests of grain crops, potatoes, oil-producing, and leguminous crops.

Viktor Petrovich Nikonov looked over the farms, machine pool, the repair shops and maintenance shops, and acquainted himself in detail with the way livestock breeding is conducted here. [video shows Nikonov looking at machinery, repair shops, and walking through a long room housing pigs]. He visited a hay farm, and described the achievements of Soviet rural workers in this sphere.

Along with agricultural work, the combine processes agricultural produce and makes land improvement and recultivation services available to other enterprises. [video shows various buildings, hothouses, and a Kamaz truck bearing the Igloopol logo] Shops which belong to enterprises and catering establishments are to be found in many regions of Poland: a large motor vehicle enterprise belonging to Igloopol has been set up to transport produce.

In conversations with the combine's workers, Comrade Nikonov expressed interest in their social and welfare problems and in Igloopol's housing construction. [video shows Nikonov talking with a group of people, shows housing under construction]. He dwelt on questions of bilateral cooperation in the agro-industrial sphere.

Comrade Nikonov returned to Warsaw today from his trip around the country.

BCP'S ALEKSANDROV MEETS MEDVEDEV IN MOSCOW

LD202325 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Medvedev today met with Aleksandrov, Politburo member and BCP Central Committee secretary, who is in Moscow en route to Sofia. They exchanged views on questions of cooperation between the CPSU and the BCP.

Pankov, Bulgaria's ambassador to the USSR, took part in the conversation, which took place in a friendly atmosphere.

PRAVDA REPORTS BIRYUKOVA TALK WITH TODOR ZHIVKOV

PM201227 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversation Held"]

[Text] Sofia, 16 Jul -- T. Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee general secretary and Bulgarian State Council chairman, today received A.P. Biryukova, CPSU Central Committee secretary, who is here as head of a CPSU delegation.

During the conversation the sides discussed issues of strengthening all-around ties between the Soviet Union and Bulgaria stemming from the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the 13th BCP Congress, and subsequent plenums of the fraternal parties' Central Committees. It was stressed that the restructuring process in economic management currently under way in both countries opens up broad opportunities to develop progressive forms of economic cooperation such as direct links between enterprises and the formation of joint enterprises, associations, and organizations. They noted the importance of enhancing social aspects in cooperation between the USSR and Bulgaria and within CEMA, and also of further developing the material and technical and raw material base for consumer goods production.

The conversation proceeded in the warm, friendly atmosphere characteristic of relations between the CPSU and the BCP. L.I. Grekov, USSR ambassador to Bulgaria, took part in the conversation.

Visit Ends

PM201219 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Departure for Home"]

[Text] Sofia, 18 Jul -- A CPSU delegation headed by A.P. Biryukova, CPSU Central Committee secretary, visited Bulgaria from 13 through 18 July in accordance with the plan for ties between the CPSU and the BCP. The delegation was received in Sofia by T. Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee general secretary. There were meetings and conversations with G. Filipov, Politburo member and BCP Central Committee secretary, E. Khristov, BCP Central Commmttee secretary, and leading personnel of a number of BCP Central Committee departments.

The delegation had meetings with the leadership of the "Industry for Man" association and visited a number of enterprises producing light industry goods and cultural, consumer, and household items in Sofia, Gabrovo, and Plovdiv districts, and Botevgrad and Asenovgrad.

The meetings and conversations included an examination of questions of developing all-around ties in light of the 27th CPSU and 13th BCP Congress decisions. It was noted that the restructuring of economic management in the USSR in accordance with the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum's decisions and the development of self-management in Bulgaria offer new prospects for deepening economic integration between the two countries. There was a discussion of specific issues connected with the activation of practical work by the CPSU and the BCP in expanding cooperation between the two countries in the production of consumer goods on the basis of the transfer to progressive new forms of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

The CPSU delegation left Sofia for home toda It was seen off at the airport by E. Khristov, BCP Central Committee secretary, and other officials.

GROSZ DESCRIBES 'FRANK' TALK WITH GORBACHEV

PM201235 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "High Appreciation"]

[Text] Budapest, 19 Jul — In an interview on Hungarian television, Karoly Grosz, MSZMP Central Committee Politburo member and Hungarian Council of Ministers chairman, has rated highly the results of his visit to the Soviet Union.

I was deeply impressed by my conversation with M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, he stated — a conversation marked by thoroughness and frankness [otkrovennost]. The key features for our two countries are the improvement of the economic mechanism and the search for ways to accelerate the economic, political, and social transformations.

It is characteristic that our countries' current problems were analyzed from standpoints which are extremely close. After all, restructuring in the Soviet Union and the program of economic and social development in Hungary are most closely interconnected. Thus the conversation and exchange of ideas provided very important experience which will help us to find correct ways of accomplishing the tasks facing our country. The system of political institutions must be improved and the party's leading role must be thought out in a new way [osmyslit po-novomu].

The restructuring process that is currently being launched in the USSR, the Hungarian Government leader stressed, is at the center of public attention throughout the world, including in Hungary. The changes in Soviet society are influencing life in Hungary. Hungary's economic problems can only be solved by pursuing a bold and dynamic policy. Socialist development in our countries has now reached the stage at which forward movement becomes increasingly complex. If mutual experience is taken into account progress can be achieved with fewer mistakes.

HUNGARY'S NEMETH, GROSZ THANK SOVIET UNION

PM151520 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jul 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Thanks for Congratulations"]

[Text] K. Nemeth, MSZMP Central Committee Politburo member and Hungarian Presidential Council president, has expressed sincere gratitude to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for the congratulations and cordial wishes on his election as president of the Hungarian Presidential Council.

K. Grosz, MSZMP Central Committee politburo member and Hungarian Council of Ministers chairman, has expressed sincere gratitude to the USSR Council of Ministers for the greetings and good wishes on his election as Hungarian Council of Ministers chairman.

K. Nemeth and K. Grosz gave assurances of their desire to promote the steady development of bilateral relations and their readiness to cooperate in the interests of peace and progress.

GDR AMNESTY, DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION PROMULGATED

PM191345 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "General Amnesty in GDR"]

[Text] Berlin, 18 Jul — On the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the GDR's formation the GDR State Council has passed a decision on a general amnesty. The announcement points out that the amnesty extends to persons who were convicted prior to 7 October 1987 whether or not they were imprisoned. For persons sentenced to life imprisonment this term is reduced to 15 years. The amnesty does not extend to persons convicted for Nazi and war crimes, crimes against humanity, and espionage and murder. The GDR State Council has also passed a decision on the abolition of the death penalty.

LIZICHEV ADDRESSES FORCES AKTIV IN GDR ON COMBAT READINESS

PM201645 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[Own correspondent report: "Party Aktiv Meeting"]

[Text] Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, 14 Jul — A meeting of the group party aktiv here has discussed the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum results and the party organizations' tasks for further stepping up the combat readiness of the units and subunits. Army General A. Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, delivered a report to the aktiv meeting participants.

The report and the speeches by Army General V. Belikov, commander in chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, Lieutenant General N. Moiseyev, member of the Military Council and chief of the group's Political Directorate, and Comrades M. Osinin, B. Pokhodenko, F. Antropov, Yu. Koshelev, and others stressed that the plenum guidelines propose more profound and more complex tasks for the Armed Forces and each military collective, the high quality resolution of which is linked above all with heightening command and political cadres' and each Communist's personal responsibility for the state of affairs in his assigned sector and for his personal contribution to increasing combat readiness.

It was pointed out during the meeting that, rather than mere words, persistent practical actions, emphasis on high qualitative results in martial labor, and a personal example of the selfless, honest execution of party and official duty are needed today more than ever from staffs, political organs, party organizations, and party members. Everywhere it is important to do away resolutely with inertia, passivity, the outmoded, and the stagnant — everything which constitutes a braking mechanism. It is necessary to persistently deepen innovative appoaches to work, to develop exploration, initiative, and independence, to increase efforts on the path of renewing the style and methods of work, and to disseminate broadly the advanced experience of those who are in the vanguard of restructuring.

Questions of further galvanizing the work of primary party organizations and directing them toward heightening the role of party education in the collectives and raising the quality and effectiveness of all forms of ideological work were discussed exactingly and from positions of today's requirements.

SFRY'S KRUNIC THANKS GORBACHEV FOR CONGRATULATIONS

PM151518 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jul 87 Second Edition p 1

[Message from Bosko Krunic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium: "To Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee General Secretary"

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Gorbachev,

I cordially thank you for the congratulations which you sent me on my election as LCY Central Committee Presidium president.

The Yugoslav leadership has always attached due significance to strengthening relations with the CPSU and the USSR and advocated constant political dialogue, being profoundly convinced that the all-around development of Yugoslav-Soviet cooperation on the basis of the well-known principles accords with the long-term interests of our countries' peoples, peace, and social progress.

Let me take this opportunity to convey to you, the CPSU Central Committee, and the Communists and working people of the Soviet Union our sincere wishes for success in implementing the 27th CPSU Congress line and the course of restructuring pursued by the CPSU.

Bosko Krunic,
LCY Central Committee Presidium president

PRAVDA'S ZHUKOV COMMENTS ON GIRAUD STATEMENT

PM140819 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[Yuriy Zhukov "Political Observer's Notes": "What Is Mr Giraud Frightened Of?"]

[Text] French Defense Minister Andre Giraud has lost his calm and his sleep. Any telegram from Geneva about the progress of Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear arms reduction makes him shudder: Will an accord on the elimination of medium-range and operational and tactical missiles suddenly be achieved? He speaks again and again at various meetings and gives interviews to newspapers and magazines in an attempt to prove what cannot be proved: Any accord on arms reduction is mortally dangerous!

Recently Mr Giraud once again sounded the alarm. Speaking at the joint seminar of the French Army and the West German Budeswehr High Command in Paris, he once again attacked the Soviet peace initiatives.

"Giraud warned," West Germany's DPA reported 7 July, "that one can lose (?!) sight of the true purpose behind the avalanche of Gorbachev's disarmament proposals published by the mass media: the strengthening of peace." "Disarmament is still not peace," he stressed.

He returned once again to his favorite theme: In the face of this new Soviet "threat" France and the FRG must strengthen their military collaboration, but, of course, it must develop "not contrary to the North Atlantic alliance, but within its framework." (On familiarization with this statement, you may involuntarily conclude that the French defense minister has forgotten that France is not a member of the NATO military organization! — Yu. Zh.) "It is precisely the Soviet-U.S. talks on disarmament issues," Mr Giraud explained, "that have shown France and the FRG how close their solidarity must be."

As is well known, the French defense minister and his Bonn counterpart Woerner have been busying themselves for a long time with the military integration of France and the FRG. A month ago the magazine PARIS MATCH published a lengthy report on the joint exercises by the French Army and the Bundeswehr, accompanied by a symbolic photograph in which the French minister was brandishing a pistol while the Bonn minister standing by his side was smiling contemptuously.

Soon, as is well known, a campaign began to create joint French and FRG Armed Forces, which Mr Giraud is particularly active in advocating. Moreover it is stressed that these joint forces must be advanced nearer to the GDR border. Incidentally, Giraud states meaningfully — I quote him from the 3 July issue of the Paris magazine L'EXPRESS — "We cannot think of leaving French soldiers without the protection of the nuclear deterrent." No! Really?

Some people in Paris tried to interpret the plans for this military integration as a measure which would lead to independence from the United States and NATO. But Mr Giraud has now demolished this version. The FRG and France, he said, must "instill in their U.S. friends the conviction that they will best defend the camp of freedom (?) if they retain their own conventional and nuclear (!) forces in Europe."

What about disarmament? Mr Giraud wants one thing: for the socialist countries to disarm. Yes, he stated directly that the Warsaw Pact member states must unilaterally reduce their armaments.

You are simply amazed at the nonsense this figure can bring himself to utter in his mortal fear of the possibility of an agreement on the elimination of two classes of Soviet and U.S. nuclear armaments, especially since, as Mr Giraud said himself, the Soviet proposals have evoked a "wide public response in the West."

FRANCE'S CHIRAC CITED ON SECURITY ISSUES

PM101306 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jul 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "J. Chirac on France's Stance"]

[Text] Paris, 9 Jul — French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has spoken out in support of the conclusion of a Soviet-U.S. agreement on the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles and operational and tactical missiles in Europe. In an interview published in LE MONDE he noted that France approves the idea of disarmament in principle and is interested in the current talks on this subject, adding that they should promote the strengthening of universal security. He said that Paris approves the position taken by France's Western allies on this issue.

At the same time the French head of government stressed that the Soviet-U.S. agreement on which talks are now taking place will not affect the French nuclear forces, since France does not belong to the NATO military organization and has no foreign nuclear missiles on its territory. The attainment of accords on disarmament will not prevent us from modernizing our nuclear deterrent forces, he noted. Moreover J. Chirac claimed that in the present situation France needs to gamble on nuclear weapons more than ever.

It is also clear from his words that he is in favor of continuing efforts to organize a joint defense of West European countries on the basis of the idea he put forward in the Western European Union last year on drawing up a "European security charter." The prime minister also came out in support of the idea of creating a joint Franco-West German brigade.

PRAVDA REPORTS ON FRG AIR FORCE MODERNIZATION

PM131053 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jul 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Militarist Ardor"]

[Text] Bonn, 10 Jul — Worried by the prospect of progress in the matter of nuclear disarmament in Europe, Bonn's "hawks" are pressing ahead with the buildup of conventional armaments. This was further evidenced by the speech by FRG Defense Minister Manfred Woerner (Christian Democratic Union) at a press conference in Husum (Schleswig-Holstein), where he was inspecting a number of West German Air Force subunits. During the trip the minister unequivocally advocated the modernization of the FRG Air Force.

As a military planning conference at the FRG Defense Ministry demonstrated, there are also plans to equip the Bundeswehr with Jaeger-90 military aircraft, created jointly by the FRG and France. Defense Ministry spokesman Ulrich Hundt, who acquainted journalists with the results of the conference at the Bonn military department, made no secret of the fact that there are plans to modernize other types of armaments as well, in particular the Leopard-2 heavy tank. He had previously advocated building for the Bundesmarine new modern ships capable of "performing deep-water combat tasks." Hundt did not rule out the possibility of the FRG Navy's demands being met.

DEMICHEV HOLDS TALKS WITH CARDINAL SIN IN KREMLIN

LD172114 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1545 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 17 Jul TASS -- Petr Demichev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has today received in the Kremlin a delegation of the Romanian-Catholic Church in the Philippines headed by the Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime L. Sin.

During his talk, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, the Soviet side elucidated the USSR's principal approach to ensuring universal security, based on new thinking and rejecting coercive politics and stereotypes of political world-outlook. The guests' attention was drawn to the far-reaching initiatives of the Soviet Union on transforming the Asian-Pacific region into a zone of peace, good-neighborliness, wide based and equal cooperation.

Cardinal Jaime L. Sin noted, that today's interdependent world needs new constructive approaches to solving problems confronting humanity, the main one being the global elimination of means of mass annihilation. He welcomed the Soviet Union's efforts toward implementing the idea of a nuclear-free, nonviolent world, as being attuned to the peaceful aspirations of the church.

During the discussion of questions of Soviet-Philippine relations, a common opinion was expressed that the future development of cooperation between the two countries is in the interests of their peoples and of ensuring security in Asia and the entire world.

U.S. RADAR IN GREENLAND 'EVOKES SERIOUS CONCERN'

LD191552 Moscow TASS in English 1439 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Copenhagen Jul 19 TASS -- A most up-to-date radar station at the U.S. Air Force Base in Thule, Greenland, which is included in the Danish Kingdom as an autonomous region was put into operation on June 24. This has been reported by a commander of the base in an interview with the newspaper LAND OG FOLK.

The putting into operation of the new U.S. radar station in Greenland evokes serious concern of the Danish public. Many specialists believe that its creation violates provisions of the Soviet-American ABM treaty. They point out that the radar station can be used within the framework of the implementation of the "Star Wars" program. This runs counter to a resolution adopted by Danish parliament which denounced plans of the militarization of space.

DEMICHEV RECEIVES OUTGOING SWISS AMBASSADOR

LD100830 Moscow TASS in English 0747 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 10 TASS -- Petr Demichev, an alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., received in the Kremlin today the ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the U.S.S.R., Karl Fritschi, on his request in conjunction with the envoy's forthcoming departure for home.

During a friendly conversation Petr Demichev and the ambassador discussed Soviet-Swiss relations and certain international problems.

IZVESTIYA'S BOVIN VIEWS PANAMANIAN EVENTS

PM091133 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by Political Observer A. Bovin: "Panama's Alarming Summer"]

[Text] Panama has been in a state of frenzy for over a month now.

It began 6 June, when Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera (retired), former chief of general staff of Panama's Defense Forces, stated that the results of the May 1984 presidential elections had been rigged.

On 9 June antigovernment forces went out onto the streets; they demanded the resignation of President Eric Arturo Delvalle and Brigadier General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, and the transfer of power to Arnulfo Arias, the leader of the right-wing bourgeois opposition (in the past he has been elected president on three occasions and on three occasions coups d'etate have prevented him from taking the presidential seat). To coordinate their activity five opposition parties are organizing a so-called patriotic council of national-democratic rebuilding. Businessmen calling for a national strike and clerics are creating their own organization -- the National Civil Crusade.

The Panamanian working people's national trade union center has rejected the appeal from the political opposition and business circles to join in the strike and the civil disobedience campaign. At the same time a number of trade union, student, and other public organizations have called for the creation of a coordination committee and the launching of a struggle to satisfy the urgent needs of the poor strata of the population (a freeze on prices of necessities, more attention to the unemployment problem, and so forth).

On 11 June, in order to suppress the street demonstrations and cope with the violence, the government introduced martial law and suspended civil liberties.

The disturbances in Panama serve as an expression of the complex, intricate situation in the country. The reaction is trying to undermine the process of social changes initiated by General Omar Torrijos. The working people live badly, in poverty. The polarization of political forces is on the increase.

But it is impossible to understand Panamanian events unless you include in your examination the external factor -- the influence of the "Northern big brother" -- the United States. Washington has many causes for dissatisfaction.

First, Panama is taking an active part in the Contadora process and opposes U.S. interventionist plans in Central America.

Second, the day -- 31 December 1999 -- is steadily approaching when all U.S. troops will be withdrawn from Panama's territory and the canal will be handed over to the Republic of Panama in "an operational state free from impediments [gruzov] and debts." The Americans would like if possible to defer this prospect.

Third, Washington does not like Panama's general foreign policy course, which is determined by the country's national interests and the principles of the Nonaligned Movement.

That is why, as many observers stress, the U.S. Administration is trying to mobilize and is supporting all forces capable of opposing the government, destabilizing and shaking the existing regime, and making it even more obliging and open to advice from Washington.

On 25 June by 84 votes to 2 the U.S. Senate adopted a resolution demanding General Noreiga's resignation and the restoration of constitutional guarantees. The protest note which Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abaddia Arias sent to the U.S. secretary of state and distributed to all governments of the world stated: The United States, "donning the familiar garb of pseudoliberation ideals, is using them to conceal its perfidious, intolerable interference in Panama's internal affairs." The Senate resolution "is a threat to national sovereignty and independence."

Speaking on national television, A. Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, accused U.S. extreme right-wing circles of destablizing the situation in Panama. Their main aim, he stated, is to thwart the fulfillment of the Canal Treaties which provide for the transfer of this important interocean waterway to Panama's complete jurisdiction by the year 2000. Panama's legislative assembly stated that U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis is the leader of "an internal plot to overthrow the government" and demanded that the ambassador be recalled.

On 30 June the Panamanian Government repealed martial law. On the same day a stormy anti-U.S. demonstration took place outside the U.S. Embassy building in which Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, president of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, and Panamanian ministers took part. As a sign of protest Washington decided to close the U.S. consulate and the USIA library in Panama. The U.S. Government confirmed its faith in A. Davis.

Panama's progressive forces represented in the coordination committee of people's organizations called for the intensification of national unity in response to the United States' interventionist policy. In addition the committee demanded an end to foreign debt payments, the repeal of the economic measures imposed on Panama by the IMF, and the elaboration of an economic development plan ensuring the country's independence and the satisfaction of the people's most important social needs.

On 1 July an extraordinary session of the OAS permanent council was held in Washington at Panama's request. By 17 votes with 8 abstentions and 1 against (the United States, or course), the council denounced Washington's interference in Panama's affairs.

On 4 July every year U.S. Independence Day is celebrated in Panama. But this time no Panamanian officials took part in the celebrations.

Taking advantage of the repeal of martial law, the government's supporters and adversaries are periodically joining issue on the capital's streets.

To all appearances the United States, exploiting the difficulties which have accumulated in Panama and aggravating and augmenting them, will continue to have its way. It wants to retain control over the canal. And that is why it needs a dependent and obedient government there. But it is hardly likely to get it.

4 MACHINE BUILDING MINISTRIES MERGED INTO 2

LD201513 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1405 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 20 July (TASS) — A Ministry of Agricultural and Tractor Machine Building and a Ministry of Heavy, Power, and Transport Machine Building have been set up in the USSR. The decision to this effect was adopted today by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The first was formed on the basis of the USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building and the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Fodder Production.

It is headed by Aleksandr Yezhevskiy. He was born in 1915 in Tulun, Siberia, and worked his way up from worker to minister. He entered the machine building plant in Irkutsk as a turner in 1930. On graduating from the Irkutsk Institute of Agriculture Mechanization he was a teacher and a chief engineer at the plant. He was later appointed director of the Rostov agricultural machine building plant "Rostselmash," one of the largest in the country, and held a number of leadership posts. He has been USSR minister of tractor and agricultural machine building since 1980, is a member of the CPSU Central Committee and a deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The second ministry will combine the functions of the USSR Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building and the USSR Ministry of Power Machine Building. It is headed by 50-year-old Vladimir Velichko. He was born in the village of Mozhayskoye, Voronezh Oblast (Central Russia). After graduating from Leningrad mechanical institute he worked as foreman, deputy chief of a works shop, and director of a machine building works in Leningrad. He also held a number of leading posts. Since 1983 he has been USSR minister of power machine building. He is a CPSU member and a deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

SHEVARDNADZE ADDRESSES UNION REPUBLIC FOREIGN MINISTERS

LD151909 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] A conference of foreign ministers of the union republics was held in Moscow today. The conference discussed the tasks involved in improving the activities of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and and in further activizing their participation in implementing the foreign policy program of the CPSU and the Soviet Government in light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum. The foreign ministers of the union republics shared their work experiences.

The conference was addressed by Comrade Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR foreign minister.

[Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 16 July 1987 carries in its second edition on page 4 a TASS report under the headline "Conference at the USSR Foreign Ministry" which adds the following:

["Taking part in the conference's work were S.V. Chervonenko, chief of a CPSU Central Committee Department; USSR deputy foreign ministers, and senior officials at the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Foreign Ministry."]

SHCHERBITSKIY ATTENDS UKRAINE SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

New Council of Ministers Chairman

AU141246 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 11 Jul 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Information Report on the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Session"]

[Text] On 10 July the 5th session of the 11th convocation of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet started work. Before this a meeting of the Council of Elders was held, which discussed matters of the agenda and organization of the session's work.

Taking part in the session's work are V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, and I.A. Gerasimov, Yu. N. Yelchenko, Ye. V. Kachalovskiy, B.V. Kachura, A.P. Lyashko, I.A. Mozgovoy, V.A. Sologub, A.A. Titarenko, V.S. Shevchenko, S.I. Gurenko, V.A. Ivashko, Yu. A. Kolomiyets, V.A. Masol, and Ya.P. Pogrebnyak, all members or candidate members of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo.

The session was opened by Deputy P.G. Kostyuk, the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet chairman.

A report by the Mandate Commission was delivered by P.K. Musiyenko, chairman of that commission.

In accordance with the Mandate Commission's report the Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution recognizing the authority of Deputies N.S. Bondarchuk, I.A. Zabrodin, P.T. Kraynichenko, A.P. Sevchenko, and V.I. Tsybukh, who were elected in Nizhnedneprovskiy electoral district No 120 in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, Bakhchisarayskiy electoral district No 361 in the Crimean Oblast, Lutuginskiy electoral district No 97 in Voroshilovgrad Oblast, Voznesenskiy electoral district No 412 in Nikolayev Oblast, and Gadyachskiy electoral district No 464 in Poltava Oblast, respectively.

On the proposal of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the following agenda was approved for the session:

1. On the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR.

2. On the activity of the soviets of people's deputies of Donetsk and Ternopol Oblasts to expand the participation of labor collectives and the population in improving towns and villages.

3. On the work of the Commission for Health Care and Social Security of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet.

4. On changes in the composition of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

5. On the approval of decrees of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Deputy V.V. Shcherbitskiy spoke on the first matter. At his proposal a Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet resolution was adopted releasing A.P. Lyashko from his duties as chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers in view of his retirement. At V.V. Shcherbitskiy's proposal a resolution was adopted appointing V.A. Masol as chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers.

Deputy V.A. Masol, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers, then took the floor.

The Supreme Soviet moved on to discuss the second matter on the agenda. Deputy A.S. Statinov, chairman of the Donetsk Oblast ispolkom, and A.I. Tovstanovskiy, chairman of Ternopol Oblast ispolkom, delivered reports on the activity of the soviets of people's deputies of Donetsk and Ternopol Oblasts to expand the participation of labor collectives and the population in improving towns and villages.

Deputies taking part in the discussion were: N.N. Nivalov, first secretary of Chernovtsy Obkom; G.I. Gutovskiy, chairman of Krivoy Rog city ispolkom in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast; G.P. Korneychuk, head of the therapy department of Yaremcha city Hospital in Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast; and S.Ye. Zubkov, face-worker in Poltavskaya mine of the Ordzhonikidzeugol production association in Donetsk Oblast.

After a break, the session was chaired by Deputy T.A. Gavrilova, Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet deputy chairman. The discussion of the second matter on the agenda continued, with the speakers being Deputies R.B. Bodelan, first secretary of Odessa Gorkom; N.V. Lavrukhin, first deputy chairman of Kiev city ispolkom; V.D. Ploshchenko, minister of housing and municipal services of the Ukrainian SSR, P.K. Prishchepa, chairman of Rovno Oblast ispolkom; Ya.S. Olenyukh, chief animal specialist at the Zapovit Lenina kolkhoz in Ternopolskiy Rayon of Ternopol Oblast; G.K. Zlobin, chairman of the State Construction committee of the Ukrainian SSR; V.V. Popov, a thread-grinder at the Leninist Komsomol Aviation Plant in Kharkov; M.A. Bodnya, ispolkom chairman of the Peskovskiy rural soviet in Bobrovitskiy Rayon of Chernigov Oblast; S.Ye. Goryachiy, chairman of the Lenin kolkhoz in Berdichevskiy Rayon of Zhitomir Oblast; and V.P. Popov, first deputy chairman of the State Planning Committee of the Ukrainian SSR.

At the evening session, which was chaired by I.S. Plyushch, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet, the deputies continued the discussion of the second matter on the agenda. The speakers were Yu.A. Krasnoshapka, first secretary of Belaya Tserkov Gorkom in Kiev Oblast; A.A. Mirgorodskiy, engine driver at Popasnaya locomotive depot in Voroshilovgrad Oblast; M.K. Dorokhin, director of the Frunze pedigree poultry breeding plant in Sakskiy Rayon of the Crimean Oblast; A.S. Myakota, chairman of Poltava Oblast ispolkom; V.P. Salo, minister of construction of the Ukrainian SSR; N.M. Yanchuk, leader of a sugar beet growing team of the Iskra kolkhoz in Gorodokskiy Rayon of Khmelnitskiy Oblast; D.I. Protsenko, chairman of the State Committee for the Protection of Nature of the Ukrainian SSR; and Ye.A. Matsegora, general director of the Novokramatorskiy Machine Building Plant production association in Donetsk Oblast.

A speech was then made by Deputy V.S. Shevchenko, politburo member of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the President of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The deputies unanimously adopted a resolution on the matter which had been discussed.

The fifth session of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet will continue its work today.

New Presidium Members

AU161826 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 12 Jul 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Information Report on the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Session"]

[Text] On 11 July the 5th session of the 11th convocation of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet continued its work.

The third sitting, which was chaired by Deputy P.G. Kostyuk, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet, discussed the next question on the agenda: the work of the Commission for Health Care and Social Security of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet. Deputy V.P. Lenchinskiy, chairman of the commission, delivered a report.

Deputies participating in this discussion were A.P. Nekhayevskiy, second secretary of Vinnitsa Obkom; P.I. Moskalkov, chairman of Zaporozhye Oblast ispolkom, N.A. Sobol, leader of a tool-setting brigade at the "50th Anniversary of the USSR" Lvov Bus Plant; A.E. Romanenko, minister of health of the Ukrainian SSR; V.M. Gurtovoy, chairman of the Lenin kolkhoz in Znamenskiy Rayon of Kirovograd Oblast; B.Ya. Reznik, departmental head at the N.I. Pirogova Odessa State Medical Institute; A.M. Lukyanenko, minister of social security of the Ukrainian SSR; M.M. Baka, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports; and F.S. Sderzhikov, chairman of the Donetsk Oblast trade union council.

A resolution was adopted on the question which was discussed.

Deputy A.A. Titarenko, Politburo member and second secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, spoke on the changes in the composition of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Supreme Soviet resolutions were adopted releasing Deputies R.P. Zverev and V.I. Mironenko from their duties as members of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and electing Deputies A.P. Nekhayevskiy and V.I. Tsybukh as members of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Deputy N.G. Khomenko delivered a report on the approval of decrees of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium which are adopted in the period between sessions. The Supreme Soviet adopted laws and resolutions on the approval of decrees of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Also discussed were questions of certain changes in the composition of Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet permanent commissions. Deputy A.V. Merkulov, departmental head in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, was elected chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, and Deputy A.Ya. Vinnik, first secretary of Makeyevka Gorkom, was elected chairman of the Commission for Youth Affairs.

There was a discussion on the question which Deputy O.N. Boldarev addressed to S.V. Litviyenko, board chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Union of Consumers Societies, on measures to improve the organization of purchasing agricultural product surpluses from the population and trading these at kolkhoz markets.

Yu. A. Bondar, minister of local industry of the Ukrainian SSR, answered a question from the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Commission on Consumer Goods, a question which was submitted by Deputy E.P. Uyvari, while V.F. Sklyarov, minister of power and electrification of the Ukrainian SSR, replied to a question which Deputy Ye. S. Nesteryuk raised about assigning resources for the construction of housing and public amenities for the Dnestr GES workers.

Resolutions were adopted on the Supreme Soviet deputies' questions.

With this the 5th session of the 11th convocation of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet concluded its work.

New Politburo Member

LD161714 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1515 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Excerpts] A Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee plenum took place today. The plenum reviewed the tasks of the republic's party organizations in carrying out the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June 1987 Plenum on the radical restructuring of management of the economy. A report was delivered by Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary.

Taking part in debates were Mironov, Donetsk obkom first secretary; Ivashko, Dnepropetrovsk obkom first secretary; Pogrebnyak, Lvov obkom first secretary; Revenko, Kiev obkom first secretary; Nikolayev, Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman; Sologub, Ukrainian SSR Trade Union Council chairman; Sazonov, Zaporozhye Obkom first secretary; Sharayev, Nikolayev Obkom first secretary; and Popernyak, Khmelnitskiy Oblast Soviet ispolkom Committee chairman. [passage omitted]

A concluding speech was made by Comrade Shcherbitskiy. The plenum adopted a decision on the matter under discussion, which will be published in the press. The plenum also examined some organizational questions.

Comrade Lyashko was released from his position as member of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo in connection with his retirement on a pension.

The plenum transferred Masol from candidate member to member of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo. Comrade Mukha was released from his position as candidate member of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, in connection with [words indistinct].

Taking part in the plenum was (Sutsulov) an instructor from a section of the Organizational Party Work Department of the CPSU Central Committee.

After this, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum ended its work.

Moscow Notes Shcherbitskiy Speech

LD162237 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Plenary sessions of the Central Committees of the Ukrainian and Moldavian Communist Parties, which discussed the tasks of party organizations on the fundamental restructuring of economic management in light of the 1987 June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, were held today.

At the plenum in Kiev the speaker, Comrade Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, and other speakers said that important reserves have been created for the implementation of fundamental reforms in the republic's economy. Together with this the plenum reckons that considerably less has been done than could and should have been done. In a number of industries, including the basic ones and in a number of enterprises, the positive trends did not acquire stability. The plenum discussed in a critical way the issues concerning development of the social sphere, first and foremost that of housing. Unsatisfactory work in consumer goods production and in development of se rvices was acknowledged.

Participants in the plenum approved organizational and political measures concerned with fulfillment of the resolutions of the CPSU Central Committee's June plenum.

In Kishinev, the report by Comrade Grossu, first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee, and the speeches noted that restructuring in the republic is entering a period of practical actions, which to a certain extent is having a positive effect on economic results. At the same time, the possibilities of accelerating social and economic development are still being implemented poorly in Moldavia. Specific measures have been planned to correct the situation that has arisen. Plenum participants also discussed the progress in the fulfillment of social and political measures by the Central Committee of the republican Communist Party, concerned with implementation of the 27th CPSU Congress resolutions and the 16th Congress of the Moldavian Communist Party.

UKRAINE'S NEW OFFICIALS ELECTED TO SUPREME SOVIET

AU301429 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Ukrainian 25 Jun 87 p 1

[Unattributed "Announcement on the Election of Deputies to the USSR and Ukrainian Supreme Soviets"]

[Text] In conformity with Article 60 of the USSR Law on Election to the USSR Supreme Soviet, and with Article 57 of the Ukrainian SSR Law on Elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, on 21 June 1987 the by-election of deputies to the USSR and Ukrainian Supreme Soviets was held in individual constituencies to replace the outgoing deputies.

The deputies elected to the USSR Supreme Soviet were:

Comrade Vladimir Antonovich Ivashko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo candidate member and Dnepropetrovsk Obkom first secretary, for Novomoskovskiy constituency No 431 in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast;

Comrade Valentin Yevgenyevich Ostroshinskiy, Ternopol Obkom first secretary, for Chortkovskiy constituency No 520 in Ternopol Oblast.

The deputies elected to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet were:

Comrade Ivan Aleksandrovich Zabrodin, Ukrainian minister of finance, for Bakhchisaraiskiy constituency in Crimean Oblast;

Comrade Anatoliy Petrovich Savchenko, chief of the Economic Department of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, for Voznesenskiy constituency No 412 in Nikolayev Oblast.

UKRAINIAN DISSIDENT REPORTEDLY FREED

AU201319 Paris AFP in English 1309 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Munich, West Germany, July 20 (AFP) — A Ukrainian political prisoner was "prematurely freed" early July from a camp in the Urals, according to a communique issued here Monday by the U.S.S.R. News Brief association.

Mikhail Horyn is the second prisoner to obtain early release from the Perm special internment camp under the terms of an amnesty begun this year, the communique said. Another prisoner, Leonid Borodin, had already been freed, added U.S.S.R. News Brief, an organization specializing in human rights cases in the Soviet bloc.

Soviet legal authorities have also decided to end psychiatric treatment being given in Latvia to a "religious activist," Aleksandr Riga, the association reported. Mr. Riga has been allowed to go home and will soon be definitively freed, U.S.S.R. News Brief said.

EXPERT SAYS HUMAN ERROR CAUSED CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

LD201313 Moscow TASS in English 1252 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS — By TASS science news analyst Anatoliy Lepikhov:

"The cause of an accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in April 1986 lies in the attitude of the station's personnel to discharging their duties," says director of the Scientific Rsearch Institute on Nuclear Power Plants Armen Abagyan.

Last April it was decided to conduct an experiment on the fourth reactor in order to raise the reliability of the station. It was planned to use the energy of a turbine, rotating by inertia in the non-operating reactor, to feed pumps which supply water to the reactor fuel core. This eliminates the need for additional energy consumption needed to cool with water a reactor some time after it has been shut down.

The experiment started by gradually reducing the power of the reactor. When it became half of the nominal rating, the emergency cooling system was cut off in accordance with the programme of test but in violation of the regulations. Suddenly, its power dropped sharply. In this situation the regulations call for shutting down the reactor for twenty four hours. Instead, the personnel of the nuclear power plant decided to return it to the power level required for tests and blocked the emergency protection signals, "cutting off" one more safety system.

After some time the power of the reactor started to rise. Only then the personnel sounded the alarm. The shift chief ordered the protection system reactivated. But it was too late. The power surged by thirteen times in one second. Two explosions erupted. The reactor fuel core was destroyed.

Abagyan said that specialists did not find serious faults in this type of reactor. At the same time, the reactor of this type as any technical system has certain design faults, which are most noticeable at very lower power. Measures were worked out to locate them.

"In short, the design faults of the reactor could not have caused the accident if the regulations had been observed," Abagyan stressed.

RESIDENTS RETURN TO 16 CHERNOBYL-AREA VILLAGES

LD202055 Kiev in English to Europe 1800 GMT 20 Jul 87

[From the "Ukraine Today" program, presented by Boris Koca]

[Text] Sixteen settlements from which the population was evacuated after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant have again received their residents. These villages are situated on the territory of two republics, Belorussia and the Ukraine. In their radiation situation, 22 other settlements are ready for re-evacuation [as heard].

GEORGIAN SUPREME SOVIET DISCUSSES HOUSING LISTS

LD181145 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] A Georgian Supreme Soviet session took place in Tbilisi today. The question of enhancing the responsibility of the republic's soviets of people's deputies for the development of housing construction and observance of the principles of openness and social justice in housing allocations in accordance with what has been laid down by the party's 27th congress and the CPSU Central Committee's subsequent plenary session was discussed.

This problem was examined in a wholly uncompromising way. The deputies emphasised that genuine reductions in the housing lists — housing which should moreover be of good quality — should become the main criterion of the efficiency of the soviets' work.

Comrade Patiashvili, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, took part in the session's work.

BAKU RADIO REPORTS AZSSR SUPREME SOVIET MEETING

LD111214 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0104 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] The 5th session of the AZSSR Supreme Soviet 11th convocation was held in Baku on 10 July.

Comrades Kymran Bagirov, Oktay Bagirov, Svetlana Kasumova, Ziya Yusif-Zade, Vasiliy Konovalov, Musa Mamedov, Ramiz Mekhtiyev, Telman Orudzhev, Artur Rasi-Zade, Lidiya Rasulova, Gasan Seydov, Suleyman Tatliyev, Gasan Gasanov, [words indistinct] Nazim Mamedov and Nuraddin Mustafayev, and members of the republican government and the AZSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium took their places on the rostrum.

Deputy Suleyman Rustam-Zade opened the session. Participants observed the memory of the deputies who had died after the fourth session of the AZSSR Supreme Soviet.

The agenda and work order of the session were established. The first item of the agenda: Deputy Ayaz Mutalibov, deputy chairman of the AZSSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the republic's State Planning Committee, read a report on the fulfillment of the comprehensive program to develop consumer goods production and services in accordance with the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum and also on the duties of people's deputies of the republic's soviet. The session unanimously approved the first item on the agenda.

The second item on the agenda: a report by Deputy Rafiga Kaziyeva, secretary of the AZSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the confirmation of decrees of the AZSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The session adopted the relevant decision on this.

Deputy Musa Mamedov, first deputy chairman of the AZSSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the republic's Agro-Industrial Committee, and Deputy Ashdar Aliyev, minister of construction of the AZSSR, answered a question from a group of deputies on the process of the housing construction, social and cultural facilities, and speeding up the work in this sphere.

The session adopted a decision on this question, and with this the 5th session of the AZSSR Supreme Soviet 11th convocation concluded its work.

BAGIROV DELIVERS REPORT AT AZERBAIJAN PARTY PLENUM

LD190202 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] In Baku today, an Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee plenum was held to discuss the republican party organization tasks for implementing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum on fundamentally restructuring the management of the economy. Comrade Bagirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, who gave a report at the plenum, and other speakers noted that the intensification of social production and the perfection of the industrial structure is underway in the republic's social and economic life. It was also noted that new principles of investment and scientific and technical policy are being introduced.

At the same time, it was said at the plenum, only the first steps have been taken toward radically restructuring the republic's economy. In a number of industries, including basic ones, the process of deep changes is developing slowly, without seriously involving many labor collectives. Speakers stressed that the reorientation of economic growth from intermediate results toward end results and the provision of a reliable and efficient counter-expenditure [protivozatratnyy] mechanism on the basis of an organic combination of collective and personal interests with national ones are needed for an accelerated solution to the package of problems linked with restructuring the management of the economy and developing the social sphere. [paragraph continues]

Organizational and political measures of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee for carrying out the decisions by the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum were endorsed.

JUSTICE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON CITIZENS RIGHTS LAW

LD021935 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 2 Jul 87

[Interview with Minister of Justice B.V. Kravtsov by correspondent T. Karetnikova on the adoption by the USSR Supreme Soviet of "a law on the procedure for court appeals against illegitimate actions by officials infringing on citizens' rights;" participants' names and positions identified by screen caption; from the "Vremya" program; video shows Karetnikova and Kravtsov — live or recorded]

[Text] [Karetnikova] Boris Vasilyevich, this new law adopted at the session affects each of us and extends our rights and our opportunities.

[Kravtsov] You are right that the law substantially extends the opportunities for citizens to ask the courts to defend their rights. Let us say a citizen has been refused registration for housing. The citizen can appeal to a court over this decision. The court examines his complaint and, if it is well founded, decides that his complaint should be satisfied. If while examining the case the court reveals any shortcomings in the work of an institution or an official it will be able to raise the issue of eliminating the shortcomings to prevent future infringements on legality that are perhaps being allowed to take place at this institution. After all, court procedures are substantially different from administrative procedures. In court the citizen's complaint is examined publicly and openly, with the involvement of the applicant and the other side responsible for the decision that was made. Moreover, the sides are equal in court proceedings. This is a democratic procedure.

[Karetnikova] Boris Vasilyevich, does this law not contain a loophole for people who are not very conscientious when they want to settle scores with one or another chief or official?

[Kravtsov] The law provides for certain guarantees that protect the other side against citizen complaints. Indeed, if the applicant complains in order to slander or denigrate an official then he will be answerable for this as provided for in existing legislation.

[Karetnikova] Boris Vasilyevich, when will this law go into effect?

[Kravtsov] The law goes into effect as of 1 January 1988. I should say that in this connection we — that is the justice organs — will have to work hard to prepare for the application of this law.

[Karetnikova] Could there be any amendments to it, or is it already a firm act, adopted to operate permanently?

[Kravtsov] A law may be improved, and this applies even more so to such an unusual law. Life and experience are always wiser than any law.

PETROLEUM MINISTER NOTES SUCCESS OF RESTRUCTURING

LD181024 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0528 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 17 Jul (TASS) — In the first 6 months of this year the output of oil and gas condensate in the USSR exceeded 300 million tonnes. The lagging behind of the last few years has been overcome. A gradual boosting of output rates has started. Analyzing the results for the half year in a conversation with a TASS correspondent, Vasiliy Dinkov, USSR Petroleum Industry Minister, called them encouraging.

This is a direct result of restructuring, which has affected all links in the sector, Vasiliy Dinkov noted. Last year the ministry switched to a new scheme of management. Large all-union associations have been eliminated. These were intermediate links between the ministry and the enterprises. Owing to the improved mechanism of management and administration, the wages of 70 percent of the sector's workers have been raised, but that is only the beginning of the big and complicated process of restructuring, the minister noted. Now we are making preparations to go over to complete financial autonomy and self-financing from the new year.

Whereas formerly one organization did the construction, another the drilling, a third the extracting of the oil, now we have taken the path of setting up production complexes. These include the subdivisions needed to carry out the entire cycle of operations. They have complete financial independence.

The summing up of the first results obtained in new management conditions has shown the results to be positive, the minister said. Production costs have fallen, the standard of oil refining has improved, for the first time in the last few years there has been a growth in labor productivity, and the plan for profits has been overfulfilled.

For example, one of the new complexes extracting oil in the lower reaches of the Volga has already dealt successfully with the plan in the first quarter of this year. Labor productivity has risen by 18.3 percent compared with the corresponding period of last year. On average, wages have increased by 15.7 percent; 14.5 percent of the workers have been released and have been offered jobs in new oil fields.

LATVIAN OFFICIAL NOTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ILLS

LD170913 Moscow TASS in English 0854 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Riga July 17 TASS — The stable fulfillment of contractual deliveries and high quality of goods have become the main indices of Latvia's economy, Miervald Raman, chairman of the State Planning Committee of this Soviet Baltic republic, told TASS.

He noted that some enterprises aptly used independence granted to them and operated in a rhythmic way, without hitches. "The Latvian economy has successfully fulfilled, on the whole, the six-month plan. Nevertheless, it experienced serious difficulties in implementing it," Miervald Raman pointed out. Many senior executives of industries are inclined to link them to the unusually rigorous winter, he went on to say, but the real reason is inability to work under the conditions of the reorganization when the style of management by decree and habitual reliance on assistance from above proved to be inefficient.

"Consequences of lagging behind of several enterprises will be evidently felt by us up to the end of the year. But our economic potential instils confidence in us that we shall make up for the lag," holds Miervald Raman.

Joint activities of CMEA partners are called upon to raise competitiveness of Latvian products. This is a graphic sign of the reorganization. Riga waggon builders established direct production contacts with their counterparts in the Bulgarian city of Ruse. In the recent past they also signed a contract with the Czechoslovak concern Poprad. The radio-engineering amalgamation VEF in Riga is the coordinator of joint efforts of specialists in eight countries along the entire cycle of development and production of the latest switchboard facilities. British experts help carry out sweeping retooling at the garments amalgamation Lativa. [as received] The Riga dairy enterprise signed a contract with Finnish partners to build a new section. The republican self-accounting foreign trade association Latvia [as received] has been set up to develop new forms of foreign economic activities and scientific and technical cooperation with other countries.

KOLBIN ATTENDS ALMA-ATA ECONOMIC AKTIV CONFERENCE

LD190200 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] At the conference of Kazakhstan's party and economic aktiv that took place today in Alma-Ata the issues of an economical consumption and an increased production of construction materials and components for implementing the Housing-91 program were examined. The need was emphasized to sharply increase the speed of the construction conveyor which is working in the republic -- as had been pointed out at the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee -- far below its full capacity.

In connection with increased housing construction, the issues of providing construction materials, components, and assemblies are acquiring particular importance. It was noted at the conference that considerable reserves had not yet been put to use. Participants in the conference said that for increasing the capacities of the construction industry a continuous operating mode should be introduced, the production units should be refurbished, and equipment should be updated.

Comrade Kolbin, Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, spoke at the conference.

CSA REPORTS ON SUMMER AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS

Feed Production Figures Given

LD160604 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The procurement of feeds continues throughout the entire country. According to USSR Central Statistical Administration data for 13 July, sown and natural grasses have been cut in the first cutting from an area exceeding 43 million hectares. This is almost 5 million hectares fewer than the amount for this time last year. Kolkhoz and sovkhozes have procured more than 35 million tonnes of hay and more than 40 million tonnes of haylage. The plan for the procurement of hay has been fulfilled by 42 percent. At many farms its quality is significantly higher than that of last year. Farms are also continuing the production of grass meal using artificial drying and the production of other dehydrated green feeds. Almost 2.5 million tonnes of these feeds have been obtained. Specialists are noting that rates for the procurement of feeds could be significantly higher if it were not for the debts of machine-builders. [passage omitted]

Cereals Cut, Threshed

LD161000 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] By the middle of the summer, which is precisely what the calendar shows now, the country's cereals, reports the Central Statistical Administration of the USSR, have been cut from 3.5 million hectares and threshed from 2.5 million hectares. Relative to the same period last year, when grain was gathered in from an area of more than 16 million hectares, the difference is rather tangible. It is mainly due to the vagaries of the spring weather. Machine operators of the southern regions are currently working round the clock in an attempt to make up for lost time.

Accelerated Harvest Needed

LD151519 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Farms of the country's south are expanding harvesting of grain. It is being carried out in complex weather conditions: There are frequent showers, and often strong winds blow through the fields and literally lay the stalks on the ground, overwinding them at the same time. In these conditions, the machine-operators have to fit their combines with grain-lifters, do everything in order to avert losses of grain. Special attention is being paid to the quality of harvesting and prevention of losses.

The farms are continuing procurement of fodder. According to the data of the USSR Central Statistical Administration by 13 July initial harvesting of sown and natural grasses had been carried out on the acreage exceeding 43 million hectares. That is almost 5 million hectares fewer than by the same date last year. One conclusion follows from that: It is necessary to accelerate the rate of work, to prevent grasses from overriping and losing their nutritious values.

Specialists note that the rate of fodder procurement would have been much higher, were it not for the debt of machine-builders. They owe many spare parts to repair yards, as well as kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Incidentally, it is not only the fodder-harvesting machinery which is idling.

Nine percent of the grain combines, 12 percent of all trucks, many tractor trailers are not ready to go into the fieds. The same situation is observed a year in, a year out: Through the fault of the partners, machinery idles in villages at the height of the season.

MEDIA REPORTS 12-14 JULY AGRICULTURAL WORK

LD150344 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 12-14 July. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

12 July

The grain harvest in Uzbekistan is coming to an end. Harvesting has taken place in 80 percent, or slightly more than that, of the grain-producing area. The grain yield after threshing amounts to more than 630,000 metric tons. Last year, the grain-producing area was badly hit by drought and the yield was only 2-3 quintals per hectare. This year, the average yield in Uzbekistan is about 11 quintals per hectare. The figure is low because the area is suitable only for dry-land farming. However, farmers in Andizhan, Fergana, Bukhara, and Syrdarya Oblasts have managed to produce 33 quintals per hectare, with Kashkadarya Oblast -- the largest grain-growing area -- not far behind. The general situation is quite good, but, with great effort, could have been better. During the peak harvesting period, about 2 weeks ago, about 2,000 combine harvesters -- nearly one-third of the harvesting machinery -- were standing idle. The level of machine use was exceptionally low in Kashkadarya and Dzhizak Oblasts -- the republic's main granaries -- where labor organization is poor. (0240)

Cotton harvesting will begin soon. So far, three-quarters of all the cotton-picking machines have been repaired. The position is at its worst in Kashkadarya Oblast once again. Only just over half of the machinery is ready for use. Despite the large failure to produce the planned amount of cotton last year, the Kashkadarya Oblast agro-industrial committee has made only bland comments on the situation. (0240)

13 July

Harvesting of corn for silage has begun in Chimkent Oblast in south Kazakhstan. Farms there have to lay in about 1 million metric tons of silage for the winter. In the republic as a whole it is planned to procure more than 26 million metric tons of silage for public livestock. Harvesting of grasses is in full swing at present for hay and haylage. Feed procurement rates are higher than last year, but what is worrying is that in a number of oblasts not enough care is being paid to the quality of procured feeds. In Severo-Kazakhstanskaya and Tselinograd Oblasts, as checks have shown, almost half of the hay was acknowledged to be low in quality. In Taldy-Kurgan Oblast low quality grass meal is being produced. (0000)

Uzbek farmers are today procuring the 4 millionth metric ton of feed for public livestock. (0204)

14 July

Thanks to the work of far east seed breeds it has become possible to start growing super-early potatoes this summer in the fields of Maritime kray. The first 100 metric tons of these, gathered ahead of schedule, have been sent to towns and workers' settlements in the kray.

The kray's agroprom has decided to increase acreage allocated to the fast-ripening variety. (0000)

Saratov Oblast farms have laid in 1 million metric tons of haylage. Work is better than last year, the quality of feed, too. Storage work on hay continues. (0204)

Winter barley has been cut on more than a quarter of a million hectares, that is, virtually the entire acreage, in Krasnodar kray. Winter wheat harvesting has begun in a number of rayons. (0204)

The grain harvest in Tajikistan has entered a decisive stage. The high mountainous regions began harvesting work today. Grain crops occupy about 200,000 hectares in the republic. In the Vakhsh valley, following the wheat harvest, the sowing of corn for grain has already been carried out. (1100)

The Kabadian rayon of Tajikistan has marketed more than double the set figure for wheat. Now they are sowing the cleared fields with corn grain to ensure the necessary supply of feed. (1100)

SOVIET-SYRIAN SPACE MISSION SET FOR 22 JULY

Syria's Talas Arrives

JN201653 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jul (SANA) -- General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, arrived here this afternoon heading a delegation to take part in the ceremonies set for early Wednesday at the space center in Baykonur to mark the launch of the joint Soviet-Syrian space mission.

On hand to welcome the delegation at the airport were Vladimir Kotel'nikov, first vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences and General Petr Lushev, first deputy defense minister, together with a number of Soviet officials and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Moscow.

The delegation accompanying Gen Talas comprises General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, Major General 'Ali Malahifji, and Major General Muhammad al-Khuli.

Flight Preparations Begin

LD201056 Moscow TASS in English 1001 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Baykonur space-launch complex July 20 TASS -- TASS special correspondent reports:

The Baykonur space-launch complex is decked with the national flags of the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic. Less than two days are left before the start of the Soyuz TM-3 spacecraft which is scheduled for the morning of July 22.

"The state commission has just approved the lineups of the main and back-up Soviet-Syrian crews", Lieutenant General of the Air Force Vladimir Shatalov, head of the Gagarin Cosmonauts' Training Centre, told journalists. "Aleksandr Viktorenko has been appointed commander of the main crew, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, pilot-cosmonaut of the USSR its flight engineer, and Muhammad Faris cosmonaut researcher. The commission found the transport spacecraft, the carrier rocket, the launching complex, the mission control centre and the rescue service to be fully fit for work".

Vladimir Shatalov presented to Aleksandr Viktorenko and Muhammad Faris international certificates of cosmonauts. Today in the morning the spacecraft and the carrier rocket docked in an assembly-testing shop were put in a starting position and installed vertically on support trusses. Service trusses, cable and cable-fuelling masts were moved close to the rocket. Pre-start operations were started.

SPACE CHIEF FAVORS SETTING UP WORLD SPACE AGENCY

PM061619 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jun 87 Second Edition p 6

[Interview between Academician R. Sagdeyev and Correspondent A. Lyutyy under the rubric "Problems Worrying Mankind": "Looking at Our Future in Space" -- date and place not specified -- first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] "Mankind will not stay on the Earth forever... At first he will timidly go beyond the atmosphere, then he will conquer all of solar space." Those words were spoken by K.E. Tsiolkovskiy at the dawn of space science. It was not really all that long ago. Note, too, that he was speaking about mankind and dreaming about space serving the entire human race.

Here is a different comment, however. "Space belongs to no one," U.S. Lieutenant General Daniel Graham, retired, stated a few years ago, meaning that near-earth space will be possessed by the country which proves strongest. Recently Graham told me, not without pride, that it was he who suggested the SDI idea to Reagan back in 1980. Don't you see, the former general repeated: The insoluble political and ideological contradictions between the USSR and the United States preclude effective peaceful cooperation between them in space. Rivalry in near-earth space, including military rivalry, is inevitable.

[Lyutyy] People who hold such ideas are surely capable, aren't they, of nullifying the cooperation in developing space which all mankind needs? It was with that question that I began my conversation with Academician R. Sagdeyev, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Space Research.

[Sagdeyev] I believe that there are no insuperable political and ideological barriers to successful cooperation between different countries in space. We already have examples of close cooperation, including cooperation with the United States. There was the Soyuz-Apollo joint flight in 1975, for example. Soviet and American radio astronomers recently cooperated successfully on the Vega project. Airships have been placed in the atmosphere around Venus. The movement of craft of this kind, which are so unusual for space flight, can be monitored with great accuracy only by joint efforts using radio antennae on different continents. Cooperation continued during the brief but intense meeting with Halley's Comet, when the Vega craft plotted a course toward its nucleus, and afterward, when information was transmitted for guiding the European Giotto probe. Cooperation among earth tracking stations, including some NASA stations, played an important role in this multilateral collaboration.

I hope that the views expressed by Graham do not extend to all U.S. military men. For instance, we are now collaborating closely with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena (California). A few days ago a group of Soviet scientists returned from a conference there on prospects for studying the Solar System. It was pleasing to hear at the final session the optimistic assessment of the prospects for international cooperation in this sphere expressed by former U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Lew Allen, the laboratory's director, and another retired general. I believe that other people are interested in international cooperation in space, apart from those who have quite definite military plans for its use.

[Lyutyy] Last April in Moscow, USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz signed an agreement on cooperation in the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes. In what ways can this cooperation be most effective? [paragraph continues]

U.S. scientific circles are talking, among other things, about the possibility of a joint expedition to Mars. Some believe it perfectly realistic, others think it technically infeasible because there is no reliable protection against increased radiation resulting from solar flares and cosmic rays. What is your view on this?

[Sagdeyev] The agreement is an important document. It revives collaboration opportunities comparable with those which existed during the Soyuz-Apollo project. It must be given specific new content. One of the most promising plans discussed in Pasadena was the scenario for unmanned Mars space probes to carry out a comprehensive study of that planet and to send back samples of Martian material to earth. Everyone agrees that this would make it possible to unravel mysteries which have concerned people about the origin of Mars and its geological history, including the history of water on Mars. Perhaps light will also be shed on the hypothesis of the existence of specific Martian life forms, albeit in the distant past.

As for manned flight to Mars, paradoxical though it may seem the radiation situation is more favorable in space and in solar wind currents than in low near-earth orbit. The experience of long flights by orbiting stations shows that the problems of protection against radiation during solar flares can be resolved. A flight to Mars by an international crew would be an enormous scientific triumph. However, most scientists believe that it must be preceded by unmanned expeditions to that planet.

[Lyutyy] When I called on you I heard English spoken in the corridor. I was told that this was the latest delegation of U.S. specialists. Do you often receive foreign visitors?

[Sagdeyev] Not a day passes without some visitors. Dozens of scientists come here. In our way we are an informal international association of space researchers. For many years now the USSR has in fact opened its doors to international scientific experiments using our space apparatus. We actively collaborate with socialist and developing states as well as Western countries. Their cosmonauts have traveled aboard our spacecraft. Here are some more examples. There are still instruments from nine countries in flight aboard Vega, and there are scientific instruments from The Netherlands, the FRG, Britain, and the European Space Agency aboard the Kvant module, which has begun its vigil in space. Dozens of foreign scientists will take part in the testing of the Phobos scientific complex, which it is planned to launch into orbit around Mars next year, and instruments created by specialists from 14 countries will travel aboard it. The natural laws governing the movement of bodies in space orbit cause apparatuses to circle the earth. There are no national borders for them. In the same way nature urges us toward international cooperation.

[Lyutyy] The recently published yearbook of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute says that there is a possibility of collisions because of the growing number of microscopic fragments in space formed, for example, as a result of the U.S. ASAT system tests. Does not the need arise to talk right now about protecting the space environment against pollution?

[Sagdeyev] This problem must definitely be considered in the not too distant future. In terms of operational life, satellites can continue rotating for a very long time if they are in a fairly high orbit of, say, 600 km or more. As a result of tests of antisatellite and other types of weapons, targets launched into space are being deliberately destroyed, producing hundreds, sometimes thousands of fragments of debris instead of a single body. And a collision with a fragment with a mass of just a few dozen grams promises trouble. The alarm which people are beginning to express on this score is perfectly understandable. Questions of treating the space environment solicitously as the asset of all mankind can be resolved if the political will exists. [paragraph continues]

The organizational framework for resolving these questions should be sought within the United Nations, for example, or a world space organization such as our country has proposed setting up.

More and more questions are now arising which need to be resolved jointly. I believe that our proposal to create a world space organization will be adopted sooner or later. The view of space as an asset for all mankind is gaining ground.

[Lyutyy] What practical results of space research can you name which have already influenced our lives?

[Sagdeyev] We no longer notice that in television programs every day you can find items transmitted across great distances by space communications satellites. This also applies to such everyday matters as telephone conversations. Computer links via satellite will become increasingly widespread. In time news features resulting from the existence of space equipment will appear in everyday life. In the next few years materials with special characteristics which cannot be produced in conditions on earth will be produced in orbiting laboratories. Encouraging results and even examples of practical use already exist in these spheres. Furthermore, the solution of tasks connected with space equipment — the creation of durable heat shields, for instance -- sometimes leads to unexpected innovations elsewhere, even in everyday life -- for example, teflon-coated heat-resistant frying pans...

There are many useful by-products like that which could be mentioned. But the development of the main, major areas of space activity will be all the more successful and the benefit derived from the conquest of space all the more complete, the sooner the threat to militarize space is removed. Space must remain peaceful not only to preserve and expand the potential for scientific research but also to protect life on our planet Earth.

...Tsiolkovskiy's words, with which this article began, are inscribed on the wall of the auditorium at the Institute of Space Research. When I left Academician R. Sagdeyev's office I saw another group of foreign visitors in that same auditorium. The words "informal association of space researchers" came to mind. Yes, those people, from countries with different political systems and committed to different ideological views, are united not from need but from the calling of their profession and their conscience. They are united to ensure that space remains peaceful and that it works on behalf of all the peoples and for all people.